

Weekend

Ask Yolonda

After her husband's sickness, wife supportive, but not romantic

By YOLONDA GAYLES
Syndicated Columnist

Dear Yolonda: I wonder if you can find an authority to help me with my problem. My wife and I have been married 18 years. Basically, we have a good marriage, but something has come up, and I'm not so sure we'll overcome this hurdle. A little over a year ago, it was determined that I had cancer of the prostate gland. Seven months ago, I had surgery, and, according to my physician, I have recovered well.



Yolonda

Now the problem: From the second we found out about my illness, my wife has been in my corner. We have become closer in a way. She even accompanies me on my visits to see my doctor. But in another way, since the operation we have become extremely distant. She

refuses to fulfill her marriage vows with me. Now, we never have sex. At first, she made up excuses about things -- she was always tired, or she wanted to make sure I was well enough. Now she comes out and tells me no.

My doctor has had a talk with her and told her that we could resume normal activities, and she agreed while we were in his office, but when we're alone, it's the same old thing.

By the way, my wife has never really been all that turned on to sex in the first place. Maybe that has something to do with it. What next? A divorce?

Aron

Dear Aron: I spoke with a urologist who assured me that the problem you and your wife share isn't medical or legal. The problem is psychological. Even though your doctor explained that you were physically capable of resuming normal marital activities, evidently the advice didn't register with your wife. Unfortunately, your physician wasn't sensitive enough to see that, and to refer you on to the right person.

The right person in this case would be a medical social worker from the hospital. They are trained in making both the patient and family see that medical and emotional healing must take place following a situation such as yours.

Cementing Rapport With Kids

Dear Yolonda: The letter about ways to build a relationship with your children sparked a flame in me. I'm divorced, and the father of three.

Although I've managed to maintain a roller-coaster relationship with my ex, I know men who haven't seen their children in two years because their ex-wives are angry at them. It adds nothing but problems for the children, but this is the only way that the men's former wives can hurt them. And, who knows the extent of the emotional problems this adds to a kid's life? What we do know is that a great number of those young men locked behind bars come from homes that lack male guidance.

Please print this letter. Perhaps it'll wake up a few parents who choose to use their kids as weapons.

Michael G., In Logan

Dear Michael: Thanks for the additional advice, but I hope you saw the real message behind the col-
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Still Going Strong

Smooth-voiced Johnny Mathis, who seems to get better with age, has opened his 26th year on the Columbia label with a new LP, "A Special Part of Me." The album features another duet with Deniece Williams in a remake of Major Harris' "Love Won't Let Me Wait" and a brand-new ballad, "Lead Me To Your Love."



New Release

Cleavon Derricks, right, befriends a Russian jazz musician, Robin Williams, left, in Paul Mazursky's upcoming comedy, "Moscow On The Hudson," which will be released next month by Columbia Pictures.

Movie Review

In 'Against All Odds', greed wins

By RHONDA BRANNON
Chronicle Columnist

Taylor Hackford, who last year brought us "An Officer and a Gentleman," a movie about the redeeming power of love, this year presents "Against All Odds," a movie about the scheming power of love.

The plot in this movie has more twists than a Rubik's cube! And once the unraveling begins, you'll find the characters to be a rather unlikeable group of people.

Jeff Bridges, Rachel Ward and James Woods star as the central figures in a *menage a trois* of murder, sex and double-crossing. Bridges is Terry Brogan, an ex-football player for the L.A. Outlaws who's been kicked off the team because of a bad shoulder.

Brogan loves football and he's also broke and in debt. So, he's willing to do anything to play again. Bridges handles the role aptly, injecting the appropriate amount of "jock bravado" that real football players exude.

And he's determined to continue playing even when his body tells him to stop. (Speaking of bodies, Bridges' is nice.) Football is Brogan's life; it's all he's ever known and all he wants to know.

He likes the good times, adulation and big bucks that come with being a player, and it's being taken away from by someone who just thinks of him as a way to make money.

Rachel Ward portrays runaway rich girl, Jessie Wyler. She's also the daughter of the Outlaws' owner and girlfriend to Jake Wise (James Woods). As Jessie, Ward is stereotypical in her interpretation. Jessie comes across as spoiled, self-indulgent and self-centered, all the characteristics the non-rich attribute to the rich. Even Ward's voice takes on a whining quality during times when things are not going quite the way Jessie would like them to. Ward also injects a sense of fear and distrust of strangers in Jessie, which makes you feel sorry for her.

Woods is perfectly cast as Jake Wise. In previous roles he's portrayed seedy, psychotic, criminally-inclined individuals. In "Against All Odds" he's not seedy -- he's moved uptown -- yet, there remains an aura of uncleanness. He's not rolling-eyed psychotic, just slightly psychotic and slightly crazy around the edges. He is a criminal, a bookie to be exact, but not in some dingy dive.

He's the owner of a very big, very fancy, very successful...
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Hollywood Today

Pryor's production company finally names new executives

By VINCENT TUBBS
Syndicated Columnist

Up! Up! Maybe away!! That's the way entertainment industry folk hope Richard Pryor's Indigo Production Co. will soar with \$41 million of Columbia Pictures' money to take us on trips never experienced before.

But, as everyone knows, things got a bit messy a few months ago when Pryor suddenly "fired" his very best friend, Jim Brown, who was president and No. 1 honcho of Indigo. Horrors! Wasn't it Brown who sweated it out with Pryor while others counted him out, ripped him off and took his gold cuff links?

So there was good reason for Pryor to select Brown to head his Indigo Productions. Right?

Well, so it seemed, until a bizarre series of events still not totally clear.

Here's how it all happened, in short takes, because "Hollywood Today" promised it and because things like this always get twisted:

1) Columbia Pictures gave Pryor a \$41-million deal to make some pictures during the next five years.

2) Pryor named Brown boss, and said he was going to see that Indigo provided work opportunities for all kinds of minority people.

3) Pryor hired pretty Sheila Frazier and pretty Linda Brown as office manager and production boss respectively, and opened the Indigo office doors to every sister and brother in town -- and they came, believe me, like invitees to Paul Lawrence Dubar's poem "The Porter."

4) Brown announced that Indigo would make the long-avoided "The Paul Robeson Story" one of its pri-
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An Intimate Biography Of
Hollywood's First Black Sex Symbol
Complete With 60 Pages Of Photographs

DOROTHY DANDRIDGE

BY EARL MILLS



Succeeds brilliantly... THE NEW YORK TIMES

A Legend

Jayne Kennedy Productions has purchased a movie option to the Holloway House biography, "Dorothy Dandridge: A Portrait In Black." The work was authored by Dandridge's one-time agent and intimate friend Earl Mills. Dandridge, who died in 1965, was the first black actress ever to be nominated for an Academy Award as best actress.

Musical Notes

Herbie Hancock to compose 'A Soldier's Story' music

Herbie Hancock, Grammy award-winning composer, musician and recording artist, has been signed by producer-director Norman Jewison to score and compose original music for "A Soldier's Story," which will be released in early fall by Columbia Pictures.

Hancock, the Grammy award-winner for the single "Rockit" from the hit album "Future Shock," has been involved in every aspect of music. "Future Shock" is described as his most vital and streetwise music since his work with the original Headhunters band a decade ago. He was nominated for three Grammys, two for "Rockit" and one for his jazz album "Quartet."

In addition to his outstanding recording hits, which feature electric and acoustic music, Hancock also composed and performed music for the motion pictures "Blow Up" and "Death

Wish."

Hancock, born in Chicago's South Side, began piano studies at the age of seven, and four years later performed the Mozart D Major Piano Concerto with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra. He studied under the legendary music teacher Captain Walter Dyett, whose previous pupils included Chicago jazz giants Gene Ammons and Sonny Stitt.

"A Soldier's Story" is based on the Pulitzer Prize-winning drama "A Soldier's Play" by Charles Fuller, who also authored the screenplay. Patrick Palmer is executive producer with Ronald L. Schwary co-producing with Jewison.

Luther's Hot

Luther Vandross' "Busy Body" tour
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