



A Tender Moment

Singers Yarbrough & Peoples pause between romantic ballads during the taping of their appearance on "Soul Train." The show will air in Winston-Salem Saturday on WJTM-TV, Channel 45, at 7 p.m.

Ask Yolonda

He's looking for a beautiful, brainy black woman out there

By YOLONDA GAYLES
Syndicated Columnist

Dear Yolonda: I'm 24 and I would like some tips on how I can meet a smart, beautiful black woman. I meet some who are cute, and others who are smart, but I have yet to meet a woman who has both qualities. I love to see smart black women.

I guess you could say that I have high standards, but I refuse to settle for less. The women I meet are so average.

Where do I begin?

David L., in Rockford

Dear David: Once and for all: If you wish to meet beautiful and brainy black women, go where they go. You'll run into them on the college circuit, at plays, or the newest meeting place, political rallies. I'm hearing about more and more romances that begin there.

But a rally or a play is not the first place I urge you to look. I suggest you begin by examining yourself and your views on what beauty and brains in black women are all about.

How? Begin by looking at your sisters, your grandmother and your mother -- presumably some very beautiful (and brainy) black women themselves.



Yolonda

It's Never Too Late

Dear Yolonda: I'm a 34-year-old woman with a serious problem. After reading the column, "Ways to communicate with your children after a divorce," I did some serious thinking.

I'm the mother of four beautiful boys, or 10 should I say, young men. When my husband and I split up years ago, he fought and fought, so finally I gave him custody. I couldn't find a job in the city, so I moved to another part of the state, which meant I could only see my boys every six weeks or so.

One of the points in the column stressed ways

parents could do inexpensive things for their children. Well, my husband always had me on the defense because I couldn't do anything financial for the boys, so, when my money was short, I didn't bother to see them. I didn't think about making my sons a cake, as the article suggested.

My ex-husband's at fault here, too. He used to tell the boys, "Your mother walked out on you." He made me pay, so I made him pay by staying away.

Now my oldest son is married, with a child of his own. My other three are teen-agers with lives of their own. I can afford to pay for them to visit me, but they always seem to have other interests. I think I've lost them.

I'm glad I read that column, but my question is, why don't divorce lawyers or judges pass out information like what I read in your column? It's too late for me, but maybe it'll help other parents in my shoes.

Kitty

Dear Kitty: I'm glad you appreciated the column. Some courts do, however, routinely make available information for divorcing parents. Many court systems have copies of the free pamphlet, "Parents are Forever," an information-filled mailer also obtainable by writing the Association of Family Conciliation Courts, 10012 S.W. Terwilliger Blvd., Portland, Ore., 97219.

There's more. Don't forget that we each want to love and be loved by our parents. Your kids fit here, too.

I suggest that you go out of your way to build your relationship with your sons. Start baking them that cake today. In time, they'll forget about what you didn't do and concern themselves with what you're doing now.

To Tell Or Not To Tell?

Dear Yolonda: I've had a hard past, and being honest about it has prevented me from maintaining a relationship with a decent young man.

When I was younger, I had some problems and I thought that I could solve them with drugs and alcohol. But now that's all behind me. Thanks to the help of a good friend, I got involved with a detox center, and I've turned my life around.

But the problem is no one believes that I've changed. Please see page C2

Musical Notes

Mayfest: A mixed bag's in store

The entertainment for next week's Stroh's Mayfest International Festival promises to be as varied and as exciting as the world it represents. As with last year's festival, an attempt has been made to provide strong, representative entertainment from each of the five regions represented in the festival. The regions represented will include Europe, Africa and the Middle East; South America and the Caribbean; North America, and Asia. Performers will be costumed in dress representative of those regions.

With the exception of Center Stage performances, entertainment will be grouped according to regions. Center Stage, located in Winston-Salem Park, will feature entertainment from all the regions, including international artist Hu Hung Yen, who will perform Aspects of Peking Opera in full dress and make-up. Also performing on this stage will be the Trinidad Steel Band, based in Washington, D.C., and June and Rosalva Reyes, Peruvian Dancers based in Miami as well as the Little German Band, the Chuck Davis African American Danvers and the Lavendier Greek Dance Troupe.

Returning from last year will be Bilah, the West African Stilt Dancer.

Regional entertainment includes a complement of Asian entertainment performed by the local Asian community. Included will be the Vietnamese Spring Fan Dance, Korean Tae Kwon Do, Laotian Traditional dances and a Chinese Dragon Dance.

Other regional entertainment will include performances by Ritmo Latino, a Charlotte-based Latin band; Eastern European folk dance; Cinnamon Reggae, a local favorite; Cherokee Indians and Piedmont-area Cloggers.

An addition to this year's North American performances will be a series of Piedmont blues musicians and folk dancers.

A special international fashion show and Maypole Dance will be featured during the opening ceremonies.

Jarreau, Knight To Appear

HAMPTON, Va. -- This year's Hampton Kool Jazz Festival at the Hampton Coliseum will feature among its headliners Gladys Knight and the Pips, Al Jarreau and Patti Labelle.

The opening-night lineup on June 22 will feature Knight, the "King of the Blues," B.B. King; keyboardist-vocalist Les McCann, and saxophonist Stanley Turrentine, who has teamed once again with organist Shirley Scott.

Sharing June 23's bill with Jarreau will be R&B-inspired jazz saxophonist David Sanborn, whose latest "Backstreet" LP is on both the soul and jazz charts.

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Songstress Patti Labelle will be among the acts headlining this year's Hampton Kool Jazz Festival in June. Other musical luminaries who'll pay a visit include Al Jarreau, Gladys Knight and the Pips and B.B. King.

Spotlight

Lenny Williams says he's back in music to stay this time around

Lenny Williams is back.

Those cheers you hear in the background are from people who were lucky enough to catch his electrifying mid-70s performances as the lead voice for Tower of Power, or such solo smashes as "Choosing You" and "Spark Of Love." And those folks you see scratching their heads in confusion are trying to answer a simple enough question: Where has Lenny been the last few years?

The answer: In Oakland, making money. See, Lenny retired from performing and went to work in real estate with his father. And he made money. Lots of it.

There was just this one little problem: "It was not fun," he says. "Not for me, not right now. I look at people like Frank Sinatra, Sammy Davis, Bob Hope -- those people don't have to sing; they don't have to tell jokes. You start to understand that they do this because this is their life."

Although it took him a little while to realize it, singing has likewise been Lenny's life ever since his childhood in Oakland. He absorbed every musical form he could lay his ears on, from classical to country to gospel. He learned rhythm from Sam Cooke, rock from Chuck Berry.

Saul Zentz, owner of Fantasy Records (and the

man who would later produce "One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest"), chanced to catch Lenny's act in a Bay area talent show. However, since Lenny was a minor, the only "talent" he got to exercise for Fantasy was lifting boxes in the stock room.

Lenny was a few years older and wiser when he crossed paths with a group that billed itself as the Motown Soul Band. Lenny clicked with the boys in the band; they hung out and even did a little writing together. Just a few years later, the band released its first hit LP, "Bump City," under its new name, Tower of Power.

That first album produced the hit, "You're Still A

Young Man", but the Tower started having personnel problems with its lead singer. Lenny came on like the cavalry, filling in for the missing member, first at a crucial concert and then on record as well. But Lenny, his heart still set on a solo career, told the fellas he'd only be able to stick around for an album or two.

It turned out to be three albums in all. Lenny led the Tower through its biggest and best moments. Hits like "What is Hip?", "Don't Change Horses In Middle of the Stream" and "So Very Hard To Go" documented the magic chemistry between the TOP's

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