

Bed and breakfast offers a taste of the Caribbean

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breakfast. During her initial conversation, Watkins asks a lot of questions trying to get to know what her guests like.

"Breakfast is designed for the guest," said Watkins. "I talk to you about something's, and then the breakfast menu is based on the conversation; whatever your heart desires." And there's also a special added treat, you might not expect at breakfast; ice cream.

"Just about everything is served with ice cream, because that was Ms. Elsie's

favorite. The way to get her to do things was to serve ice cream."

As I sat in the kitchen talking with Cheryl, she whipped up some bushy tea and the house banana pudding, a favorite of Ms. Elsie's. Now, I couldn't claim to know all the ingredients, but don't go in expecting your grandma's recipe. I'm not a fan of banana pudding, but this "spirited concoction" had me scraping my bowl. (I'll warn you, you should be at least 21 before trying it.)

The food is superb and the

atmosphere perfect. The non-traditional ranch-style bed and breakfast has a serene quality, without being stuffy.

"We offer a unique and intimate setting," Watkins said. "We're real big on privacy" for ambassadors, dignitaries, and celebrities who have been on the confidential guest list.

"Ms. Elsie was a great secret keeper," Watkins said. "Here we don't kiss and tell." Ms. Elsie's offers newlyweds and those planning nuptials the bridal Slumber

Party, Jump the Broom, or Get to the Church on time package.

"A bride and her bridesmaids can come get dressed, take pictures on site, and have manicures and pedicures done one site, and have

their limo pick them up to get to the church on time," Watkins said.

Guests can also expect to enjoy bid whist, karaoke, and steel drum lessons, if they feel so inclined.

"People leave with a new

sense of self," said Watkins. Not to mention a full stomach. "I guarantee by the time you leave you will enjoy what you've had."

For more information visit www.mselies.com or call (704) 365-5189.

Courthouse favors respect

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amounts of noise," Young said. "You don't come up chewing gum, or anything. You don't reach back and say, 'What about my friend over here, he was with me...' You just don't do that."

A graduate of Winthrop University, Young was 26 when he was appointed to the bench in 2003, the youngest judge to be appointed in York County. He finds being a young minority makes him seem a less formal judge to minorities who come in his courtroom.

"I guess for years there haven't been that many minority judges on the bench," Young said. "I find, particularly, when I see minority defendants, they get very lax with me. They go from 'yes, your honor' or 'no sir, judge' to 'what's up brother' or 'yo man, how ya doin'?' That's not acceptable."

"Everybody doesn't do that, but it happens, and it only happens with minority defendants, some minority defendants that come before me," Young said.

On the whole, Young has found that many people come in with a chip on their shoulders, and treat him as if he put them there. That kind of attitude leads to clipped responses, such as 'I guess' or 'yeah', or blatant rudeness.

Young has also found that at times, rather than helping, television court programs have added to the problems. "Judge Judy does a lot to perpetuate the misconception that all judges are mean, but we're not all mean."

"I will treat you with respect," said Young. "I'm saying, 'yes sir' or 'no sir' to them, but they somehow don't catch on that they need to reciprocate."

"We understand people will be in court for various reasons," Young added. "We're

going to treat you like we want to be treated. We're not going to treat you like some criminal, because you are not. I don't know that; if you're found guilty, okay, but I am going to treat you like a private citizen coming to get a case adjudicated."

Young offers these tips if and when you attend court.

1. DRESS APPROPRIATELY.
"No flip flops, tank tops, or club clothes," Young says. "You are judged by your first impression, so dress the part; that is the part of a responsible citizen."

2. NO HATS!
"That goes for men and women. And ladies, please be presentable." In short, do your hair. "And presentable could be a ponytail or a bun," Young says, "just make sure it is neat."

3. BE RESPECTFUL
"Respect the position, respect the courtroom." Young likens speaking to a judge with the same demeanor you might speak to a doctor.

4. HAVE MANNERS.
"It's like how your mom and dad taught you at home," said Young. "Don't speak when other folks are talking; wait your turn; raise your hand and wait to be recognized."

5. GIVE COMMON COURTESY TO EVERYONE.
"Give other people having a hearing the respect you'd want," said Judge Young. "Talking in the courtroom is disrespectful to the judge and other citizens."

As well, books are not allowed in courtrooms, and cell phones must be turned off, or they will be confiscated.

Also, when given the chance, make sure if you have questions to ask them. "When I say, 'Do you have any questions?' between the hearing, that's the time to ask me," said Young.

Young advises that repeat offenders and people who have family members who have been in the system should be warned that laws and penalties are ever changing. Don't think you know the system.

South Carolina offers a Magistrate Guide that outlines the process in simple language. "It's a workbook you can get, if you don't understand something," said Young. "We try to make it plain and simple. It's just no excuse to not understand."

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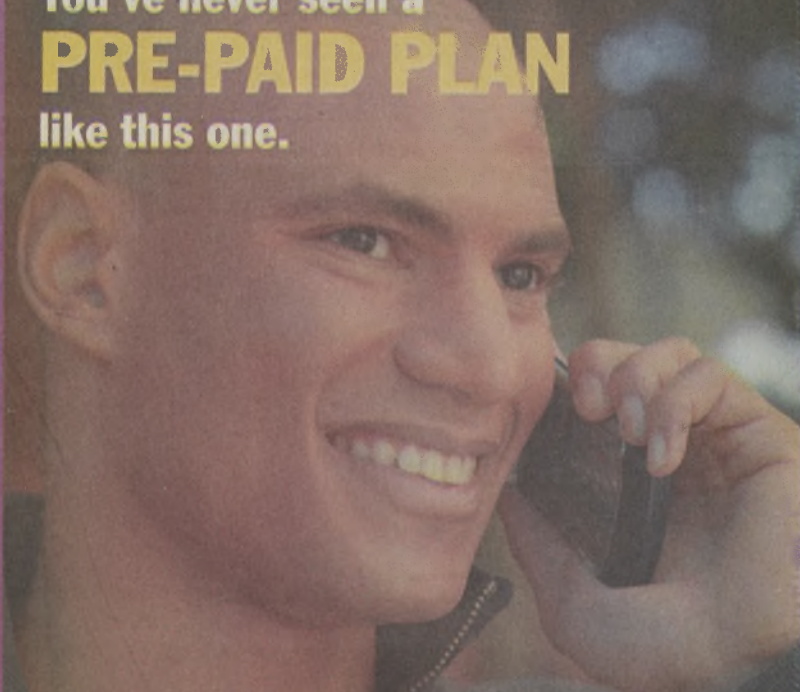


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