

S.H.E. Agency, LLC  
P.O. Box 240933  
Montgomery, Alabama 36124  
[www.sheagency.com](http://www.sheagency.com)

## SHE Talks...

### From the Desk of Traci A. Smith

I didn't have to wait on Cupid with his bow and arrows to strike me and make me to fall in love. I'm in love with life daily. In this newsletter, I think you will LOVE what the writers wrote. You'll learn how to "Be Sweet with Sweet Wines" and to "Don't Hate The Playa, Hate The Game". Plus, you must read the article about the actress, Octavia Spencer. You can't help but to LOVE how humble Ms. Spencer is. I personally love what my readers submitted for this month's fill-in-the-blank. Be sure to sign up for our e-mails at [www.SHEagency](http://www.SHEagency) for a chance to participate in future fill-in-the-blank activities. In addition to this, I've been actively collecting scarves for the All DOLled Up workshop for young women ages 13-18. Be sure to read the article "All About Scarves". This will give you a history lesson and tell you how you can wear scarves for more than staying warm but to make a fashion or political statement to those around you. Not only February 14<sup>th</sup> is Valentine's Day but also National Donor Day. Be sure to take note on how you can observe National Donor Day. Of course, check out Coach Carter's FastBREAK for entertainment news. I think this sums it up for February!

-TAS

### In this issue:

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I love \_\_\_\_ because \_\_\_\_.

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### FEBRUARY 2012

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
		<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>				

# Congratulations, Octavia Spencer!

By: Sharon Carter

It's February and it's Black History Month! This month I would like to shine some light on Montgomery, Alabama's own Octavia Spencer. Octavia, who is 39 years-old, began acting fifteen years ago. She has been quoted as defining herself as a "rank-and-file actor" because she wasn't officially trained at a prestigious acting school like The Julliard School in New York or Yale School of Drama. Octavia's film debut began in 1996 as a role of a nurse in the movie *A Time to Kill*, which Samuel Jackson headlined. Octavia's tenacity muscle was strong even back then because she was initially hired to work on casting, but she asked the Director, Joel Schumacher if she could audition for a small part. Throughout Octavia's career she held many roles that ranged from TV appearances to movie films but it was her performance in last year's film, *The Help*, which garnered her critical acclaim as a Golden Globe Award recipient for Best Supporting Actress – Motion Picture.

Last year, I remember having a conversation about the movie with my cousin, Marietta Carter-Narcisse, a world-renowned Celebrity Makeup Artist. My cousin first met Octavia years ago while they were working on the set of the movie *A Time to Kill*. During our conversation, she mentioned how she had just done the makeup for Octavia at the Miami Press Junkit for *The Help*, and how elated she was for her because she remembers her from the beginning of her film career.

Octavia's role in *The Help* was truly phenomenal. I not only believe that Octavia is a great actress but I believe her tenacity and faith are what kept her going from her humble start as an actress. While I was watching Octavia make her acceptance speech on television at the Golden Globes last month, I was so happy that anyone that saw me would have thought that I won the award. LOL As I watched her, I recalled the conversation I had with my cousin last year and the words that I remembered were "I'm going to Hollywood to become a star." Those were the faith-filled words Octavia told my cousin when they first met on set in 1996. Now, 16 years later she is where she said she would be. Congratulations Octavia, you truly deserve it!

In closing, let's all be encouraged by Octavia's faith, tenacity and determination. Never stop believing the best for your life! Until next time....live, laugh, love!

## Readers' fill-in the blank

I love \_\_\_\_\_ because \_\_\_\_\_.

I love Jesus because he first loved me :)

—**L.A. Alston**

I love making Afro Queen Earrings because they are a replica of my heritage and all of my sistahs who wear them!

—**Shemekia Pena**

I love poetry because it allows me to think out loud sometimes.

—**Butterfly Low-t Jonez**

I love money because I'm allergic to broke.

—**J. Carter**

I love music because it helps to connect me to creative, expressive, thoughtful, inspiring and spiritual side of life and it is translated to others in just the right way.

—**Mary Fitzpatrick**

I love God because he never changes. He is the only one who remains the same, no matter what I may do here in the natural to cause him pain. I honor God and I praise His name on high. In His son's, Jesus Christ, name always. Amen.

—**Princess Howard**

## Contact S.H.E. Agency's Staff



[Traci@sheagency.com](mailto:Traci@sheagency.com)



[Sharon@sheagency.com](mailto:Sharon@sheagency.com)



[JCarter@sheagency.com](mailto:JCarter@sheagency.com)



[Chelsa@sheagency.com](mailto:Chelsa@sheagency.com)



[Krystle@sheagency.com](mailto:Krystle@sheagency.com)



[Ashley@sheagency.com](mailto:Ashley@sheagency.com)



[Matalia@sheagency.com](mailto:Matalia@sheagency.com)

## DON'T HATE THE PLAYA, HATE THE GAME

By: Ashley Smith

In December of 2011 Los Angeles Lakers superstar, Kobe Bryant, made headlines after his wife of ten years, Vanessa Bryant, filed for divorce in Orange County, California. The *Los Angeles Times* reported that Vanessa Bryant will receive \$75 million, three mansions with a combined value of \$18.8 million, spousal support, and child support. As usual, the tweepsters and critics weighed in on this issue, many of them outraged at the amount of money Vanessa Bryant stands to gain from the divorce. Again, my tweeps have inspired me to attempt to shed a little light on a very common outcome of celebrity divorces.

As many of you know, divorces raise several economic issues such as property division, alimony, and child support<sup>1</sup>. Most of the outrage surrounding the Bryants' divorce is centered on the property division and alimony. There are two legal theories that govern the distribution of marital property—community property and equitable distribution. Marital property is property acquired during the marriage. Generally, it does not include inheritances or gift(s) granted to one spouse or separate property, which is property owned by each spouse prior to the marriage. Most states follow the theory of equitable distribution in which there is not an automatic 50/50 split. Instead, courts consider several factors when determining how the marital property should be divided. The factors include:

- length of the marriage;
- age, physical, and emotional health of the spouses;
- standard of living established during the marriage;
- economic situation of each spouse at the time the division of property takes effect;
- income and earning potential of each spouse;
- contribution of each spouse to the education, training, or earning power of the other spouse;
- marital debts and liabilities and the ability of each spouse to pay those debts; and
- any other factors the court considers relevant.<sup>2</sup>

However, in a community property state, all marital property is divided equally among the spouses. Basically, an automatic 50/50 split. Typically, issues such as financial need, ability to earn income, or fault are not taken into account when dividing property in a community property state. There are only about nine states, including California, that follow the theory of community property.

Therefore, if Kobe Bryant's net worth is estimated at \$150 million, based on California's community property theory, Vanessa Bryant is entitled to half, which explains why the supposed settlement would grant her \$75 million.

## DON'T HATE THE PLAYA, HATE THE GAME (cont.)

In addition to receiving half of the value of the marital property, Vanessa Bryant is also entitled to receive alimony. Alimony, also known as maintenance or spousal support, is merely a continuation of the reciprocal duty that spouses have to support each other while they are married. Alimony insures an adequate income for a spouse who has become economically dependent as a result of the marriage. Many of the factors courts consider when dividing property are also considered when determining whether to award alimony and the amount of the alimony in the event that it is awarded.

Vanessa Bryant is twenty-nine years old with two children and only a high school education. She has little to no work experience or job skills; therefore, her ability to earn an income and be self-sufficient is severely limited. Additionally, since the couple has been married at least ten years, under California law, Vanessa Bryant is entitled to maintain her standard of living after the divorce. This may help explain why in addition to the \$75 million, three mansions with a combined value of \$18.8 million have been reportedly transferred into Vanessa Bryant's name. Unless the court places a termination date upon the alimony award, Kobe will be paying Vanessa alimony until she dies or remarries (don't hold your breath!).

Why many people are outraged, I do not understand. Did Vanessa Bryant shoot any jump shots? No, none of which I am aware. Did she win any NBA championships? Did she sustain any injuries and play through pain? I think it is safe to assume that she did none of these things. But, she did carry each of his children in her womb and gave birth to them and took care of the household (with or without the assistance of a maid and/or nanny), which of course freed up Kobe's time to practice as many jump shots as he wanted and travel across the world playing professional basketball, gaining notoriety along the way. Now whether you believe her job and his job were equal is another discussion for another day. Nonetheless the fact remains, Kobe was an NBA superstar when he married Vanessa, which means he could have hired an attorney to draft a prenuptial agreement and perhaps he would not be in this predicament today. Vanessa Bryant apparently played her cards very well and stayed in the marriage long enough to be entitled to maintain her standard of living after the divorce. The way I see it, there is no need to downplay her role in the marriage or otherwise slander her name. As the old urban adage goes, "don't hate the playa, hate the game."

<sup>1</sup> For more information on child support, see my article, *Real Child Support*, in the January 2012 newsletter.

<sup>2</sup> The Bryants, like many other divorcing couples, are settling their divorce out of court through mediation so as to protect the privacy of the agreement. Nevertheless, mediators follow the same guidelines as courts.



*Krystle E. Bell, Independent Consultant*

- Purses
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Krystle E. Bell  
Independent Consultant  
5733F Arbor Station Road • Montgomery,  
Alabama 36117  
Phone: 334.233.7926 • Website:  
[www.mythirtyone.com/krystlebell](http://www.mythirtyone.com/krystlebell)

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# All About Scarves!

**By: Traci A. Smith**

Scarves have become a stylish accessory for both men and women. Most of us probably wear a scarf during the winter season to stay warm rather than wearing it to make a fashion statement. Learn about the power of wearing a scarf.

In 230 B.C., Chinese warriors under Emperor Cheng wore scarves as a way to indicate military rank. In 10 A.D., Romans wore linen kerchief knotted around the waist or around the neck as a “sweat cloth”. In the 16<sup>th</sup> century, Croatia mercenaries wore scarves to signify rank. In the 17<sup>th</sup> century, the French wore colorful scarves and called them “cravats”. Cravats were used as a way to demonstrate political support by the color of one’s scarf. In 1721, it was customary in New England for family of the deceased to give scarves to friends and importance community members at a funeral ceremony.

In 1810, the renowned composer Beethoven falls in love with Therese Malfatti and adopted a new look including fashionable suits, shirts, and silk neck scarves in hope to win her heart. In 1837, Queen Victoria comes to throne and popularizes accessories such as scarves which were used to differentiate between upper, middle and low classes. In 1856, Burberry (maker of iconic plaid scarves) is founded. In 1900, Isadora Duncan, the mother of modern dance, popularized long flowing scarves. Ironically, Duncan died as the result of a freak accident during which her long scarf was caught in the wheel of an automobile. In 1914, the knitting of scarves became a patriotic wartime duty in the United States. In 1939, it was all about fur scarves in France’s fashion. In 1970, it was popular to wear scarves as a headband across the forehead and wrapped about the waist and chest as a shirt.

You just learned about the history of scarves. Are you wearing your scarf as a fashion statement, political statement, or warmth? I encourage you all to make a statement with your scarf 2012!

## Readers' fill-in the blank Continue...

I love \_\_\_\_\_ because\_\_\_\_\_.

I love baking because it's connected to my passion and purpose.

**-Genee' Blowe of Jyll's Sweet Treats**

I love Life because God gave it to me.

**-Audrey Darby**

I love inspiring people because it gives me satisfaction beyond what money can buy!

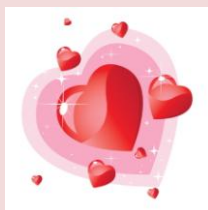
**-Kimberly Simmons-Crosby**

I love working with young people because they are our future!

**-Kanesha McCollum**

I love my husband because I can be myself around him, he accepts me for me.

**-LaTonya Duncan**



## Say It with Flowers

By: Traci A. Smith

Are you sending flowers to someone special for Valentine's Day? Make sure you pick the right flower to say what you really feel about that person. Of course, watch out for the ones that could start an argument.

### Roses:

Red - love  
White - unity or purity  
Yellow - joy  
Orange - passion  
Pink - secret love

### Other Notable Flowers:

Acacia - friendship  
Alstroemeria - devotion  
Baby's Breath - innocence  
Blue Violet - faithfulness  
Calla Lily - magnificent beauty  
Daffodils - love's oracle  
Dahlia - elegance  
Daisy - innocence and romance  
Dill - lust  
Forget-me-not - true love  
Freesia - innocence  
Gardenia - purity and secret love  
Heather - admiration  
Honey flower - sweet and secret love  
Hyacinth - playful joy  
Ivy - fidelity, marriage  
Lavender - distrust  
Lily of the Valley - happiness  
Lilac - first feelings of love  
Marigolds - jealousy  
Morning Glory - affection  
Orange Blossoms - happiness and fertility  
Orchid - love and beauty  
Pansies - consumed with thoughts of you  
Stephanotis - marital happiness  
Tulips - absolute telling of love and passion  
Violets - faithfulness and loyalty  
Zinnia - friendship & affection

## *Be Sweet with Sweet Wines*

By: Chelsa Brown



What better way to end a great Valentine's Day meal than with dessert and wine! Pairing desserts and wine will make your evening a success. One of the long-standing rules is to pair sweets with sweet. As a rule of thumb, a wine should be sweeter than the dessert it accompanies. Sparkling wine or liqueurs are also a good match with sweet desserts.

When pairing desserts and wine the same rules apply as when pairing food and wine. Match the flavors in both the dessert and the wine

Gewürztraminer is a wine you should have on hand to pair with your fruit desserts. It has a firm acidity to balance the sugars in the fruit of the desserts.

Rich wines like Sauternes from France, or Riesling from Alsace are wines that have the ability to match up with the richness of cheesecake.

A Moscato d'Asti is a light sparkling white wine that is considered a dessert wine. Its sweetness accentuates the flavor of a chocolate with fruit accents such as raspberry, strawberry or blueberry.

If you really don't want to go with a sweet wine, try a Rosé wine or even a light floral red wine such as Beaujolais with flavors of strawberry or raspberry.

No chocolates to give your sweetie with the wine? Then Chocovine Wine will satisfy both your sweet tooth and your palate. Chocovine is a fine French Cabernet Sauvignon subtly blended with a rich dark chocolate from Holland to create a decadent, silky smooth sipper. It can also be served on the rocks for cocktails.

Enjoy your sweets with your sweetie!

## sheBITS...For the Nerd in You

By: RAH, III



Stuck in an Airport with a low cell phone battery? Well in Changi, Singapore they have mobile device charging stations. Passengers can lock up their mobile devices while they charge and claim them later. What will they think of next?



### The Ovum Washing Machine Concept

No longer do you have to hide that unsightly washing machine in the corner of a small room, or behind a set of doors. The Ovum Washing Machine Concept, where fashion meets function. "Inspired by the natural form of a pebble, the Ovum hopes to evoke a more sophisticated stature for this humble appliance"

Source: <http://www.yankodesign.com/2012/01/25/sublime-form-of-ovum/>

## sheBITS...For the Nerd in You



### Unity Home Theater System

“A home theater in a TV stand”. In an attempt to virtually remove all entertainment system clutter, in2technologies unveils the Unity Home Theater System. The “tShape” stand features an integrated Blu-ray/DVD player, 5.1 Dolby Digital Surround Sound with an integrated amplifier, dual 10-in subwoofers, integrated center, left, and right channel speakers, and a 5.25-inch down-firing midrange speaker. It also features a single wire HDMI 1.4a connection, iPhone/iPod, and Ethernet connections. The stand is built to support flat screen televisions up to 60-inches. (Suggested retail: \$999)

Source: <http://www.in2technologies.com/engageunity/>



### The Nest Learning Thermostat

What do you get when you join to former Apple executives, and a home thermostat? The Nest Learning Thermostat automatically lowers the temperature when no one is home, and adjusts itself based on the resident’s habits. After 1 week of usage the Nest will have a complete schedule for your home. “One-off temperature changes won’t confuse it, but change the temperature a couple of days in a row, and Nest will catch on, and adjust its schedule” (Suggested retail: \$249)

Source: <http://www.nest.com/living-with-nest/>

## Coach Carter's FastBREAK

### Mary J. Blige Upset Over Oscar Snub



Picture Credit: Getty Images

Mary J. Blige was expected to be nominated for an Academy Award for her song, "The Living Proof" from the critically-acclaimed film *The Help*. However, the song was not nominated, along with songs by fellow superstars Elton John and Madonna. The Best Original Song category normally features five nominations, but this year only two were included. The move surprised many--not the least of whom was Blige. "I'm so thankful for true fans like you all. It saddens me & feels like the Academy is being mean. 2 only nominate 2 of the 5 slots is....." The only songs nominated for Best Original Song are "Man or Muppet" from *The Muppets* and "Real in Rio" from *Rio*.

### Ne-Yo Moves To Motown



Picture Credit: Getty Images

R&B singer/songwriter Ne-Yo is leaving his longtime label, Def Jam, and joining Motown Records, where he has also been named senior VP of A&R. Ne-Yo will be moving his entire Compound Entertainment imprint to Motown as well, where he will mentor and produce for new talent and current Motown acts. "I'm honored that I've been given such a prestigious title and trusted with such responsibility; terrified because I know that playing this role in the fashion of one of my career role models, Mr. Smokey Robinson -- these are big shoes to fill. But trust, I can handle it," said Ne-Yo. "His track record of success at Def Jam will always be a benchmark," added Universal Republic and Island Def Jam Motown chairman/CEO Barry Weiss. "But this move to Motown will provide new and inspiring challenges for Ne-Yo as both an artist and a key member of the new senior management team that is taking form at the label in 2012."

## February 14<sup>th</sup> is National Donor Day

By: Matalia Liptrot

National Donor Day focuses on five points of life: organs, tissues, marrow, platelets, and blood. National Donor Day was started in 1998 by the Saturn Corporation and its United Auto Workers partners with the support of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and many nonprofit health organizations.

An average of 20 people die each day waiting for transplants that can't take place because of the shortage of donated organs. One organ donor can save eight lives! Seventy-seven people receive organ transplants each day. The percentage of people living after a transplant: *Kidney 69%, Heart 74%, Liver 73% and Lung 54%*. The percentages of people on the national waiting list are as followed 45% Whites, 29% Blacks and 18% Hispanics.

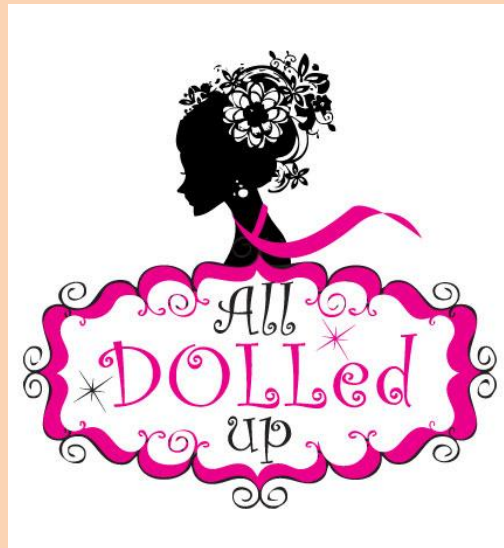
Minorities are in higher need for donors, making up half of those on waiting list. Blacks are three times more likely to need a donation. Minorities are disproportionately affected by hypertension, diabetes, and disease plus behavior that lead to the need for transplantation with 80,000 waiting for kidney. There is better chance of receiving transplant if donor is from same racial background because compatible blood types, tissue markers, and critical qualities for donor/recipient matching.

There are a number of actions people can take to observe National Donor Day:

- Register with your State Donor Registry and make sure your family knows you want to be a donor. Visit [www.organdonor.gov](http://www.organdonor.gov) for more information.
- Sign-up on "Be the Match," the national registry of potential volunteer marrow and blood stem cell donors. Visit [www.marrows.org](http://www.marrows.org) for more information.
- Learn how you can donate your baby's umbilical cord blood stem cells at birth. Visit [www.marrows.org](http://www.marrows.org) for more information.
- Donate blood. To find your local blood center and learn more about blood donation, please visit [www.americasblood.org](http://www.americasblood.org) or [www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org).

**BECOME A DONOR, GIVE THE GREATEST GIFT- LIFE!**

**Also, On February 4<sup>th</sup>, put on your "red" to bring awareness to Women's Heart Health!**



**Saturday, March 3, 2012**

**9:00 am - Noon**

**The Shoppes at EastChase**

Open to young women ages 13-18

### *Topics*

Dressing for Success | Makeup tips | Responsible Choices  
First Impressions | Etiquette | Fashion Tips & More

### *Registration*

\$15/person or \$10/groups of 5 or more

*Lunch, goodie bag, scarf, & t-shirt included in the registration*

Website: [www.AllDolledUpProject.com](http://www.AllDolledUpProject.com) | Email: [info@AllDolledUpProject.com](mailto:info@AllDolledUpProject.com)

## S.H.E. Features...

S.H.E. features **Black History Month**. Black History Month is an annual celebration of achievements by black Americans and a time for recognizing the central role of African Americans in U.S. history. The event grew out of "Negro History Week," the brainchild of noted historian Carter G. Woodson and other prominent African Americans. Since 1976, every U.S. president has officially designated the month of February as Black History Month. Other countries around the world, including Canada and the United Kingdom, also devote a month to celebrating black history.

To learn more about Black History Facts, Civil Rights Movement, Jim Crow law, Black Women in Sports, Abolitionist Movement, and Slavery in America, go to

[www.history.com/topics/black-history-month](http://www.history.com/topics/black-history-month)



## Upcoming Events



### All DOLled Up Workshop

March 3, 2012

The Shoppes at EastChase  
Montgomery, Alabama

[www.alldolledupproject.com](http://www.alldolledupproject.com)

### Montgomery's Tweet and Greet 6

May 2012

Montgomery, Alabama



### All TIEd Up Workshop

Summer/Fall 2012

Montgomery, Alabama

[www.alltiedupproject.com](http://www.alltiedupproject.com)

