

7-19-2013

The Reality Of Televised Jezebels and Sapphires: Blogs and the Negative Stereotypes of African American Women on Reality Television

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THE REALITY OF TELEVISED JEZEBELS AND SAPPHIRES:
BLOGS AND THE NEGATIVE STEREOTYPES OF AFRICAN AMERICAN WOMEN ON
REALITY TELEVISION

by

SAFIYA REID

Under the Direction of Dr. Marian Meyers

ABSTRACT

Americans spend an average of 5.1 hours a day viewing television, with reality television as the most prevalent type of programming. Some of the top reality television shows feature African American women in negative and limiting roles. However, little research examines how the stereotypes presented on reality television about African American women are viewed by the audiences of these reality shows. This research seeks to understand how African American women on reality television are discussed by their audiences online, and whether African American women who contribute to blogs resist the negative stereotypes and portrayals.

INDEX WORDS: African American women, reality television, stereotypes

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SAFIYA REID

A Thesis Submitted in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Degree of

Master of Arts

in the College of Arts and Sciences

Georgia State University

2013

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Safiya Reid
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August 2013

Acknowledgements

I do not have enough words to express my gratitude to my advisor and committee chair, Dr. Marian Meyers and my committee members, Dr. Patricia Davis and Dr. Edward Friedman. Dr. Meyers, thank you for challenging and forcing me to excel and always delve deeper. To Dr. Davis and Dr. Friedman, thank you for equipping me with capabilities through your classes to complete my research. Thank you all for great deal of attention, understanding and urgency paid to my thesis especially given the time constraints. Finally, thank you to Ms. Tawanna Tookes and Ms. Diane Sealy for always providing logistical and emotional support.

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Chapter 1: Introduction

Reality television is the most prevalent programming on television. According to Nielsen ratings, three out of the top five American shows were reality television shows in the first quarter of 2012 (Bauder, 2012). Due to its low production cost and high revenue reward, it seems reality television will not depart from television networks any time soon. Television scholars have defined reality television in numerous ways: some have strict stipulations while other definitions are far more forgiving in describing what reality television is. In addition, although research has examined the motivating factors and guilty pleasures of indulgence (Albarran & Umphrey, 1993; Campbell, et al, 2008), little research has been dedicated to understanding the implications of reality television (Squires, 2008). Some studies (Mitu, 2011; Riddle, 2010) have instead coupled the effects of reality television with the effects of non-reality television despite the fact that reality television is inherently different from non-reality television. While there are a number of similarities in both genres from the production standpoint, research has shown that regardless of how similar the production may be, audiences perceive reality television to be far more realistic than non-reality television (Coyne, Robinson & Nelson, 2010).

Since reality television's claim to fame is built upon the premise of being "real" and factual, the behavior that is depicted on these shows is also believed to be real (Coyne, et al, 2010). Subsequently, the more realistic a behavior is perceived to be on reality television, the more likely the behavior will be imitated in the viewer's life (Coyne, et al, 2010). Despite this fact, reality television can at times appear to be just as contrived as non-reality television shows, even though it promotes the illusion of reality (Coyne, et al, 2010). There are just as many writers in the credits section of a reality television show as there are in a fictional sitcom. In

addition to the writers, there are producers, elaborate sets, difficult challenges, and numerous paid celebrities.

Physical and verbal aggression are constant themes found throughout reality television shows, and viewers exposed to this behavior begin to interpret this behavior as normal. In addition, women are more likely to be portrayed as the aggressor, which reflects the “mean girl syndrome” (Coyne, et al 2010). This aggression seems to have an effect on the viewer’s behavior and attitude (Anderson & Bushman, 2002). It is important to note that although reality television typically presents low levels of violence compared to fictional shows on television, the level of aggression is higher (Coyne et al, 2010), and since the behavior seen on television is perceived to be real, viewers are more likely to adopt this behavior and adapt their attitudes (Coyne & Archer, 2005).

Because television is so fascinating (Papacharissi & Mendelson, 2007), it becomes increasingly hard for viewers to distinguish between fiction and reality, especially when television is presented as factual (Mitu, 2011). Viewers consume reality television for a variety of reasons, but a voyeuristic desire seems to be most prevalent. Due to the high content of verbal aggression followed by physical aggression, reality television normalizes these types of behaviors. All of this can lead to the incorporation of aggression in the viewer’s life.

Stereotypes of African American women abound in shows like *The Real Housewives of Atlanta*, which features a predominantly African American, female cast and is the most successful show in Bravo TV’s history, drawing in four million viewers each week¹, according to Bravo TV. With the popularity of other shows, such as *Basketball Wives*, *Love & Hip Hop*, and *Bad Girls Club*, there is no paucity of negative portrayals of African American women on

¹ <http://tv.yahoo.com/news/bravos-real-housewives-atlanta-reunion-draws-3-6-183708664.html>

television. As research suggests, viewers draw upon reality television shows to make social judgments. If the primary portrayals of African American women are images of aggression, hyper-sexuality, and vulgarity, the research questions for this study then becomes: How do viewers of reality television shows that feature predominantly African American women perceive the women on these shows, and do they resist the stereotypes? This study will attempt to answer these questions through a framing and a discourse analysis of two blogs that discuss reality television shows featuring African American women. In doing this, it will examine race, class and gender in the online discourse. Before a textual analysis can be conducted about how these shows are mediated online, an understanding of the motivations for audience indulgence in reality television, the associated effects, and how stereotypical images of African American women have been historically mediated will be beneficial to understanding how online blogs discuss and relate to the images presented on reality television.

In reality television studies, qualitative analysis has been useful in understanding the audience's behavioral tendencies (Papacharissi & Mendelson, 2007). To better understand the phenomenon that is reality television, we have to first understand the effects of watching regular television. There is no shortage of research in this area: television has been studied for numerous decades in countless disciplines. As it relates to the field of communication, various theories - including social learning theory and cultivation theory, which specifically examines the effects of television - need to be addressed.

This research can be used to educate the producers of reality television, empower African American women to challenge the depicted stereotypes and also potentially bring awareness to women and men of other races about the social diversity and reality of African American women apart from what is depicted on reality television. As such, this research aims to contribute to the

African American woman's struggle for respect and equality, empowering African American women as well as other minority women to counteract the stereotypical images and present the diversity of African American women (Boylorn, 2008).

Chapter 2: Literature Review

2.1 Reality Television Defined

Television provides a medium for humans to socially construct the world by providing access to people and cultures across the globe. Much of what we know and perceive to be true about the world comes from what is viewed on television (Morgan & Shanahan, 1999). Reality television is a new phenomenon that has evolved over the past decade, but it can be traced back to 1948 when Allen Fundt's hidden camera show, *Candid Camera*, aired (Huff, 2006). Early contributions to this broad genre encompassed everything from game shows and pageants, including the first televised *Miss America Pageant* in 1954, to documentary-style depictions of "average life" (*Nightwatch*, 1951). Reality television in America as we know it today is mostly attributed to Music Television's (MTV) premiere of *The Real World* in 1992, which was marketed with its signature introduction; "This is the true story of eight strangers picked to live in a house, work together and have their lives taped to find out what happens when people stop being polite and start getting real: The Real World."

As prevalent as reality television has become over the past decade, its definition remains debatable (Huff, 2006). According to Kilborn (1999), reality television is defined as:

- "recording on the wing, and frequently with the help of lightweight video equipment, of events in the lives of individuals and groups;
- the attempt to stimulate such real-life events through various forms of dramatized reconstruction;
- the incorporation of this material in a suitable edited form into an attractively packaged television program which can be promoted on the strength of its reality credentials"

(p. 423)

Nabi et. al (2003) describe reality television as a genre excluding news programs, talk shows, and nonfiction narratives that encompasses the following characteristics: “characters are real people (not actors), programs are not filmed on a set but in natural living or working environments, programs are not scripted, events are unplanned but evolve from narrative contexts, and the primary purpose is for viewer entertainment” (p. 304).

By all accounts, *The Real World* and *The Survivor* (another show cited for ushering in the generation of reality television simultaneously with *American Idol*) are labeled correctly as reality television. Due to the vast differences in the purpose and outcome of these shows, (*The Real World* documents cohabitation while the last two present a competition featuring weekly eliminations), subgenres of reality television were created to include documentary-style, competition/game shows, self-improvement/makeover, renovation, social experiment, dating shows, talk shows, hidden cameras, supernatural/paranormal and finally hoaxes (Huff, 2006).

To understand the effects of documentary-style reality television, first we need to examine the fascination with reality television and the motivation to watch it. According to a study conducted by Gardyn (2001), the primary reason viewers watch reality television is to experience the excitement of guessing who will be eliminated or who will ultimately be the victor of the show. This reason is closely followed by the voyeuristic pleasure of viewing people in challenging situations and imagining how you would react if placed in a similar scenario. Since the first reason does not apply to documentary-style reality television, the primary reason for watching this subgenre of reality television is likely the voyeuristic pleasure (Nabi, 2006). Johnson (2001) contrasts the guilty pleasure associated with watching reality television to that of pornography. Similar to pornography, reality television allows us to secretly watch the intimate

lives of others that we would not normally have access to (Johnson, 2001). This combines the guilty feeling of indulging in reality television with the human desire to intrude (Johnson, 2001).

Beyond voyeurism, viewers of reality television are motivated by one or more of five reasons, according to Ebersole and Woods (2007). First, they found that viewers prefer to identify with “real” people versus actors. Three other motivating factors for watching reality television are to be entertained, to change one’s current mood, and to pass time in the absence of anything else to do. All three of these driving factors are supported by Rubin’s (1983) theory of the ritualized viewer versus the instructional viewer of television. The ritualized viewer of television avidly consumes television for a distraction, to be entertained, and to relax and pass time. The instrumental viewer of television, on the other hand, watches television to learn about people, events or places to ultimately use the information in her or his daily life (Rubin, 1983). Finally, the last motivating force for watching reality television, stated by Ebersole and Woods (2007), is the community aspect that takes place long after the final credits of the show have passed. People are motivated to watch reality television because they do not want to be excluded in social interactions where the subject of a conversation might be a recent episode.

Similar to Gardyn (2001), Nabi et al (2006) utilized uses and gratifications theory to study the reasons people watch reality television and the effects of this viewing. The viewers reported an increased level of happiness during and after watching reality television (Nabi et al, 2006). Among the outcomes derived from watching reality television was a tendency toward social comparison (hypothetically placing one’s self in the role of a reality television star), an increase in parasocial relationships (the feeling of having a close bond with a media personality) and self-awareness (Nabi, et al, 2006). Feelings of humiliation were listed as negative outcomes to viewing reality television (Nabi et al, 2006). Reiss and Wiltz (2004), who utilized the uses and

gratifications approach, found that the second most common motivation for watching reality television, behind status, was vengeance. People want to vicariously live through television characters to vindicate their own feelings as a means of catharsis (Reiss & Wiltz, 2004). While there are varying viewpoints for how and why people view television (Reiss & Wiltz 2004; Nabi, et al, 2006; Ebersole and Woods, 2007; Coyne, et al, 2010), the themes that seem to remain constant is the voyeuristic desire to intrude and the illusion of a parasocial relationship.

The viewing of documentary-style reality television also has been tied to cultivation theory. According to George Gerbner (1968), television has replaced religion and education as the primary source shaping how people perceive the world. Gerbner's initial hypothesis posited that viewers who have higher exposure to television view and perceive the world in ways that are closely related to what is viewed on television. He tested this hypothesis by dividing television viewers into three categories: light viewers (less than two hours per day), medium viewers (two to four hours per day) and heavy viewers (more than four hours per day). Gerbner found that the heavier viewers of television perceived reality to more closely reflect what was found on television versus lighter viewers (Morgan & Shanahan, 1999).

Heavy viewers of television use mental shortcuts when engaged in conversation about topics previously seen on television (Shrum, 1996). According to the Neilson Company, the average American consumes 5.1 hours of television daily (Gandossy, 2009), which, according to Gerbner, constitutes heavy use of television. As cultivation theory concludes, most of our experience with the world is indirect, and what we see on television shapes how we view the world. Audiences form their beliefs about social groups and social issues from what they view on television. Thus, reality show audiences' perceptions and attitudes about African American women are likely to be affected by reality television.

2.2 Intersectionality

In examining how African American women identify themselves and are viewed by others, intersectional theory must be applied. The basic premise of intersectionality posits that race, class, sexuality and gender are variables that coincide with each other to form social identities. Excluding any applicable variables potentially limits the ability to understand a particular identity (Knapp, 2005).

Alexander-Floyd (2012) borrows from the works of Linora Salter (2002) and Michael Calvin McGee (1980) to argue that intersectionality is both an idea and an ideograph. As an ideograph, intersectionality broadly encompasses scholarship that addresses oppression faced by women of color (Salter, 2002). As an idea, intersectionality is another name for the interlocking, oppressive systems of racism, classism and sexism, as well as other signifiers of power and exclusion (Crenshaw, 1989).

As the foremost theorist on intersectionality, Kimberlè Crenshaw (1989) pioneered social thought on intersectionality as it relates to African American women through race, class and gender. Collins (1991), hooks (1992) and Wilkerson (1991) have also notably and extensively explored intersectionality. Kretsedemas (2010) explains how the stereotypes of African American women are embedded in the threat of racial integration. The narratives that were created out of this fear of integration have hindered the social mobility of the African American population at large (Kretsedemas, 2010).

2.3 Stereotypes and Representations of African American Women

The depictions of African American women on reality television vary from modern day mammies and the educated bitch (Boylorn, 2008) to jezebels and sapphires (Squires, 2008). All of these images were initially rooted in slavery, molded by structural inequalities and

subsequently reinforced over the years through media, politics, law and a host of other cultural outlets (Collins, 2000; Stephens & Phillips 2003). The internalization of these debilitating stereotypes and images have been linked to psychological distress and low self-esteem, as well as chronic health issues (Thomas, Speight & Witherspoon, 2004). bell hooks (1992) suggests that we should take an “oppositional gaze” at these controlling images and negative stereotypes by critically examining, challenging and deconstructing them in order to rebuild positive images of African American women.

The mammy was created during slavery to justify the commercial exploitation of house slaves (Collins, 2000). Christian (1980) describes the mammy as:

black in color as well as race and fat with enormous breasts that are full enough to nourish all the children in the world; her head is perpetually covered with her trademark kerchief to hide the kinky hair that marks her as ugly. Tied to her physical characteristics are her personality traits: she is strong, for she certainly has enough girth, but this strength is used in the service to her white master and as a way of keeping her male counterparts in check; she is kind and loyal, for she is a mother; she is sexless (pp. 12-13)

Though the mammy is equipped with nurturing and resilient characteristics, this image is sustained to bolster her restriction to domestic labor and to reinforce her asexuality (Collins, 2000). These traits of the mammy image serve as permanent reminders of subordination to white patriarchy and society at large.

The inception of the jezebel image can be traced back to 1619, when the first slave ship arrived in Jamestown, Virginia (West, 2010). Subject to rape and other forms of sexual abuse from slave owners and their associates, Black women later continued to endure this violence when vigilante groups such as the Ku Klux Klan would roam through the night vandalizing African American homes, killing African American men and raping African American women. The alleged insatiable sexual appetite of the jezebel justified the sexual assault that ravaged African American women during slavery and beyond (Collins, 2000). The jezebel image has

contemporary manifestations in the “hoochie” (Collins, 2000), “chickenhead” (Morgan, J., 1999) and “video vixen” (West, 2010). All of these images, which inundate popular culture, are tied to an assumed sexual deviance of African American women. However, the contemporary manifestations invoke the problematic issue of delineating between sexual exploitation and sexual liberation.

Personified by a character on the *Amos 'n' Andy* radio and television show in the 1940s, the sapphire is solely responsible for single parenthood, the unemployment and emasculation of African American men, and higher criminal rates and lower academic levels among African American children (Collins, 2000). In response to slave owners selling her husband, the sapphire assumed traditional male roles. In addition to the emasculation of African American men, the sapphire has also been associated with aggression, anger and bitterness, which has subsequently been blamed for lower marriage rates and physical aggression (Perry, 2006).

The mammy, jezebel and sapphire stereotypes wouldn't be so detrimental today if these images were not so pervasive in popular culture. Though the mammy, jezebel, and sapphire have thrived for centuries, Collins (2005) argues in *Black Sexual Politics: African Americans, Gender, and the New Racism*, that these stereotypes are signifiers of a new covert racism and have adapted to social change. The popular image of the African American working class woman can be categorized into two groups: the aggressive bitch who is unattractive because she acts like a man and the “bad Black mother” who drains state and federal budgets. The stereotypes of African American middle class women are: the Black Lady, exemplified by Claire Huxtable from *The Cosby Show* because of her professional career as a lawyer and her ability to maintain a household with her husband, who was a doctor; the modern mammy who maintains unwavering loyalty to her Caucasian superior rather than a slave master; and the educated Black bitch who

operates in the middle class but is limited by her confrontational attitude and aggression (Collins, 2005). These modified stereotypes are readily accessible throughout popular culture.

2.4 Portrayals of African American Women in Popular Culture

The various predominantly African American female casts in some reality television shows reinforce these stereotypes and significantly impact the way African American women feel about themselves (Campbell, et. al, 2008). The negative stereotypes dehumanize and objectify African American women by presenting images of hyper-sexuality (jezebel), subordination (mammy), aggression and vulgarity (sapphire) (Campbell, et. al, 2008). Popular culture is inundated with images of jezebels and sapphires, with hip-hop music regarded as the most deleterious offender (Morgan, M., 2005). Black femininity is constantly framed within hip-hop culture through music videos resembling pornography (Miller-Young, 2008) and spewing misogynistic lyrics (Morgan, J., 1999). The male-dominated hip hop community thrives on the overt sexuality of the jezebel and disrespects African American women in attempts to reinforce its own masculinity (Morgan, M., 2005).

In addition to hip-hop culture, film also presents another medium in which the jezebel and sapphire stereotypes thrive (Jones, 1998). Portrayals of African American women in film have been reduced to prostitutes, welfare queens and mammies (Wanzo, 2006). Wanzo (2006) uses Halle Berry's role in *Monster Ball* to argue that African American women are treated as cultural objects stuck in a holding pattern trying to negotiate their identities as subjects in film. When African American women view these images in hip-hop, film and reality television, they are in essence watching themselves and, consequently, they become trapped by these images (Means Coleman, 2000). These negative depictions not only dictate how African American women view themselves but also how others view them (Campbell, et. al, 2008).

The current reality television shows that feature predominantly African American females are *Love & Hip Hop*, *Real Housewives of Atlanta*, *Basketball Wives*, and *The Braxton Family Values*. Though various blogs and magazines have provided commentary on these specific shows, scholarly research has been severely limited. The paucity of scholarship about these reality shows can be attributed to the length of time it takes to develop research (Dubrofsky & Hardy, 2008). Researchers have, however, studied *I Love New York* (Campbell et al, 2008; Boylorn, 2008) and *Flavor of Love* (Dubrofsky & Hardy, 2008; Holbrook & Singer, 2009). Both of these shows are categorized in the dating show sub-genre of reality television, with *Flavor of Love* featuring a predominantly African American female cast of suitors and *I Love New York*, a spin-off of the former, featuring *New York* (an African American female runner-up on *Flavor of Love*), and a cast of predominantly African American male suitors. Although researchers have explored both of these shows and made correlations to the mediated stereotypes that have followed African American women since slavery, only one researcher has discussed her own perception of these types of shows from an African American female scholar's perspective.

Boylorn (2008) offers an autoethnographic reflection on her experience of watching reality television. She battles with herself as to how she can be simultaneously entertained and annoyed by a reality television show that portrays women who look like her in negative and limiting roles. The depicted images cause her to question what it means to be a Black woman, and ultimately, where she fits into society. Though Boylorn presents the dichotomous nature of her motivations for watching reality television and her perspective on how it changes her perception of not only herself but also of Black women in general, her account simply belongs to her. Boylorn's account does not attempt to generalize how other African American women may

perceive reality television, but it does provide justification as to why this research question deserves to be seriously studied.

2.5 Internet and Blogs as Platforms for Resistance and Identification

Marginalized groups typically face various barriers when they want to publically express ideas or thoughts. The privileged or center groups typically dominate most platforms. With the rise of the internet, the distribution of power has shifted from the center to reach marginalized groups (Mosco & Foster, 2001). Due to the lack of technological and financial barriers with the modern-day internet, marginalized groups have found a place in cyberspace to voice their opinions and concerns (Mitra & Watts, 2002). Subsequently, media outlets such as forums, chat rooms and websites have morphed into a platform of resistance to discuss identities among a host of other concerns for marginalized groups (Mosco & Foster, 2001).

Internet studies have only recently expanded their scope to research blogs and their associated effects (Pham, 2011). Blogs are a mode of computer-mediated communication that has become widespread with the rise of the internet. “A blog (or weblog) is a regularly updated webpage (often described as an online diary), with information (textual, photographic, or video) presented in reverse chronological order” (Coleman & Wright, 2008, p. 1). There are an estimated 133 million blogs worldwide, and the number increases each day. The precise number of blogs is difficult, if not impossible, to calculate because a standard definition of its form and function does not exist. Furthermore, blog surveys will routinely miss counting blogs if a blog does not utilize a host system (Singer, 2005). Of the documented blogs, most are in English and originate in the United States of America. A fraction of these blogs are categorized into the following groups: “celebrity, street, couture, luxury, indie, mass-produced, vintage, and eco or green” (Minh-hat, 2009). Bloggers in these categories operate through horizontal communication

or distributed conversations between themselves and their readers (Singer, 2005). This type of communication creates a potential platform of resistance as well as a space to discuss identity. In addition, “Blogging presents researchers with an opportunity for conducting research that would be constrained by more conventional research methods” (Deacy & Arweck, 2009, p. 20).

Media outlets, specifically entertainment blogs, are tasked with condensing large amounts of information quickly and routinely to package the information for efficient relay to their audiences (Tewksbury & Scheufle, 2009). This unique process can be described as framing. A frame is a central organizing idea or story line that provides meaning to events related to an issue (Gamson & Modigliani, 1987). Framing leads to “information effects” which is essentially what happens when journalists construct a frame around facts that influence their audience rather than simply inform (Tewksbury & Scheufle, 2009). For example, in her research of how blogs framed the Rihanna and Chris Brown domestic violence incident, Bierria (2010) found that the stories were framed to portray Chris Brown as the “angry Black man” and Rihanna as provoker rather than a victim. Entertainment blogs play an essential role in how stereotypes and identities are discussed online: and taking a closer look at how blogs written by African American women frame African American women who appear on reality television will provide insight into how the stereotypes of African American women are portrayed and, possibly, resisted.

Chapter 3: Methodology

This research seeks to understand how blogs that are written by African American women frame and discuss the female African American characters on reality television shows that feature a predominantly African American female cast. *Real Housewives of Atlanta* (Bravo TV), *Love & Hip Hop* (VH1) and *Basketball Wives* (VH1) are reality shows featuring predominantly African American women, and all have been extremely successful for their respective networks. Conducting a framing and discourse analysis of two blogs that were created by African American women and that cover African American women from reality television shows will provide an African American female perspective on African American women's identity. Bierria (2010) used YBF and Bossip to conduct a content analysis of bloggers portrayal of the coverage of Rihanna during and after her domestic violence attack by Chris Brown. Additionally, these blogs were chosen for this research due to their popularity and their coverage of African American women in reality television as they draw in millions of viewers each month.

Natasha Eubanks created TheYBF.com (Young, Black and Fabulous) on June 29, 2005, after relocating to Washington, D.C., from New Orleans, LA, after Hurricane Katrina. Eubanks noticed the void in sources of entertainment about and for African Americans and decided to fill the void (Hazelwood, 2011). Eight years later, TheYBF averages 15 million page views per month while the annual revenue exceeds \$1 million – 90 percent of which is generated from advertising, according to Black Enterprise². Eubanks still maintains creative control over TheYBF and contributes to the majority of the daily posts.

Bossip is a gossip and entertainment blog with a black sensibility - hence the name: Black plus gossip. Bossip describes itself as “the premier destination for African American

² <http://www.blackenterprise.com/tag/natasha-eubanks/>

popular culture and entertainment, with a voice that's edgy, viciously hilarious, politically aware—and completely unique”³. The site is owned by Moguldom Media Group and is regarded as one of the foremost sources and successful blogs that focus on African American celebrities. Marve Frazier, the African American female CEO of Moguldom Media Group, started Moguldom with Bossip in April 2006. In an interview with Black Web 2.0, Frazier recalled creating Bossip's domain at the cost of \$8 as well as the subsequent years of going unpaid as the site rose to prominence. Moguldom Media Group has since grown to include F-listed (a men's site focused on Hollywood leading ladies), Lossip (Bossip's Latino counterpart), HipHopWired (a site solely focused on hip hop culture) and MingXingYao (Bossip and Lossip's Chinese counterpart). All of the sites are operated separately and out of different offices to maintain their independence. Seven years and four more blogs later, Bossip continues to be a driving force in African American popular culture, drawing in 15 to 20 million viewers each month⁴. With recognition and accolades ranging from “Best Hip-Hop Blog” in 2008 by VH1 Hip-Hop Honors and one of Yahoo! Top Ten Blogger's Roll 2009 to nominations for “Best Online Hip Hop Site” for the 2011 BET Hip Hop Awards and recognition in the *New York Daily News*, *Time Magazine*, *Newsweek*, *Entertainment Weekly*, *LA Times*, *New York Times*, *Boston Globe*, *USA Today*, *Washington Post*, VH1, TMZ, CNN, Bossip proves to be a valid source for answering the research question.

Together, the TheYBF and Bossip provide an outlet to and for African Americans to discuss political, social and entertainment news regarding African Americans. As such, they are appropriate blogs to answer the research question through framing and discourse analysis. The framing analysis will focus on the headline and the story to examine how African American

³ <http://bossip.com/about/>

⁴ <http://bossip.com/about/>

female bloggers discuss the characters of the reality shows and whether they resist the stereotypes. I will then use discourse analysis to examine the comments sections of these blog posts to look at how African American female readers discuss the female characters on the shows. Most of the blog posts garner forty to seventy comments per post, with each post averaging two to three paragraphs. The readers of these blogs do not need to sign in to leave a comment, and neither of the sites have a moderator. Readers can choose to post a picture of themselves, which is how I will isolate which readers identify themselves as African American women. For those commenters who do not present a picture with their comment, I will use context clues when available to classify whether the reader identifies themselves as an African American female. If the identity of the reader cannot be discerned from the context clues or if a picture is unavailable, I will not use the comment in the analysis.

I will use all of the blog posts from 2012 that mention any of the members from *Real Housewives of Atlanta*, *Love & Hip Hop* and *Basketball Wives*. I will garner these blog posts using the custom search engine located on each site and the time stamp on each blog post to ensure it was written in 2012. I will use the headline and the story as the basis for the framing analysis. A frame is a central organizing idea or story line that provides meaning to events related to an issue (Gamson & Modigliani, 1987). Framing refers to how the media packages issues for its audience to best understand it, which can lead to bias because the frame usually entails presenting one side of the issue as the dominant side (Entman, 2007). Long-term exposure to the consistency of a given frame can influence the audience's perception of that particular issue (Tewksbury & Scheufele, 2009). Individual judgments and perceptions take place in different frames of reference, and the information is processed differently based on the explanatory schema used (Tewksbury & Scheufle, 2009). "Frameworks are socially constructed

category systems that help citizens process information” (Tewksbury & Scheufle, 2009). There are three effects that occur as a result of framing: (1) information effects - the frame is what fuses information into a package that can influence audiences; (2) persuasion effects - typically concerned with examining the presentation of the message and its intent to persuade, which the audience is usually aware of; and (3) agenda-setting effects - which occurs through accessibility (ability to recall information), where framing works by building connections to other concepts (applicability) (Tewksbury & Scheufele, 2009).

Agenda setting’s theoretical premise is the accessibility model while framing is based on the applicability model (Tewksbury & Scheufele, 2009). Framing tackles the question of “how” that agenda setting seems to leave unanswered (Takeshita, 2006). Framing will provide the theoretical framework necessary to understanding how African American female bloggers present African American women on reality television through the headlines and stories of blog posts. Conducting a discourse analysis of the comments sections of the blog posts will provide an understanding of how African American female blog readers of TheYBF and Bossip resist or contribute to the stereotypes that are presented.

The word discourse extends far beyond conventional talk (Kress & van Leeuwen, 1996): discourse refers to the entire process of social interactions (Fairclough, 1989). Discourse analysis is useful in discovering the relationships between the text and the context (Fairclough, 1992; Phillips & Hardy, 2002). Text is a communicative event that adheres to seven criteria: cohesion (grammatical relationship in the text); coherence (order of the statements); intentionality (how the message is conveyed); acceptability (attitude and purpose of the presenter); informativity (quantity and quality of new information); situationality (circumstances of the presentation of the

text) and; intertextuality (how the world is referred to outside of the text and the interpreter) (De Beaugrande & Dressler, 1981).

Discourse analysis allows the researcher to sort through the words, tone and context to land at a more encompassing thematic analysis (Johnstone, 2008). The textual details are then analyzed to classify the dominant discourses and generalize the themes (Lim & Moufahim, 2011). The aim of discourse analysis is “not to get the text to lay bare its meanings (or its prejudices), but to trace some of the threads that connect that text to others” (MacLure, 2003 p, 43). Discourse analysis is not a simple step-by-step methodology; it is analysis that takes place as one tries to understand transcripts or content and identify its organizational features (Wetherell & Potter, 1993). Understanding the different ways a text can be examined will lead to uncovering the power relations and intersectionality of race, class and gender within the comments sections of the blog posts to address the research question.

Before I can conduct a framing analysis of the blog posts on TheYBF and Bossip and a discourse analysis of the comments sections of the blog posts, a summary of the three reality television shows will be beneficial to understanding the framing and discourse analyses in the results section.

The Real Housewives of Atlanta was Bravo Network’s third installment in the *Real Housewives* franchise. It was the first time Bravo had ever featured a predominantly African American female casted show. Debuting in October of 2008, the show included one Caucasian woman, Kim Zolziak, and four African American women - NeNe Leakes, DeShawn Snow, Lisa Wu-Hartwell and Sheree Whitfield. NeNe, married with two children, was presented as a premiere socialite in Atlanta. She became the breakout star through profane verbal and physical altercations with her cast members. Sheree, newly divorced from former NFL player Bob

Whitfield, was cast as an aggressive woman battling her ex-husband for a seven-figure divorce settlement. Kim Zolziak, mother of two daughters carrying on a private relationship with a married man, was presented as NeNe's best friend. Throughout the series, the status of their friendship frequently changed and ultimately culminated with NeNe physically assaulting Kim on two different occasions. Lisa-Wu, mother of three sons and wife of NFL player Ed Hartwell, became the peacemaker and fast-paced businesswoman. DeShawn, wife of NBA player Eric Snow and a philanthropic Atlanta socialite, excluded herself from the various dramatic situations between her castmates. Both DeShawn and Lisa were fired after the first and second season respectively, and many commentators speculated that their positive disposition was the reason. In the remaining five seasons, Phaedra Parks, a lawyer married to an ex-convict, Cynthia Bailey, an ex-model engaged to a struggling local lounge owner, Kandi Burruss, a Grammy Award winning single singer and songwriter, Porshe D. Stewart, an Atlanta socialite, and Kenya Moore, a former Ms. USA winner, increased the drama upon their addition.

Basketball Wives, which immediately received criticism for its misnomer, first aired on VH1 in April 2010. The show featured six women - one recently divorced, one married woman, and four women that were romantically linked at some point to former and/or current professional basketball players. Shaunie O'Neal, divorcee of retired NBA superstar Shaquille O'Neal, was the show's executive producer and starred in and gathered the other cast members. Cast as the matriarch, Shaunie facilitates the majority of the physical and verbal altercations without being directly involved with any of the aggression. Suzie, ex-girlfriend of retired NBA player Michael Olowokondi, was cast as the loyal friend, knowledgeable of the inner workings of living as a basketball wife or girlfriend. Former Orlando Magic cheerleader Royce Reed has a son with NBA player Dwight Howard. Howard sought legal counsel to prevent Royce from

making any kind of reference to him or their son on the show. As an outcaste from the very beginning, Royce was shown provocatively dancing in revealing clothing at a pool party, which became a main source of disdain and subsequent altercations with Jennifer Williams, wife of retired NBA player Eric Williams, and Evelyn Lozada, ex-girlfriend of retired NBA player Antoine Walker. Royce endured physical, verbal and psychological abuse from Jennifer and Evelyn throughout the season. Also an outcaste from the very beginning, the final cast member and fiancé of current NBA player Matt Barnes, Gloria Govan was ostracized because her sister allegedly engaged in an extramarital affair with Shaunie's ex-husband. Gloria left after the first season and eventually became the main cast member of VH1's spinoff show, *Basketball Wives LA*. Gloria was replaced in the second season by Tami Roman, wife of NBA player Kenny Anderson. Tami, who was originally cast on *Real World: Los Angeles*, was infamous for her obscene verbal altercation with one of her cast members over ten years ago. The third season included Meeka Claxton, wife of retired NBA player Speedy Claxton. She was immediately placed in the out-group and endured a great deal of criticism as well as physical and verbal abuse from Evelyn and Jennifer. Meeka subsequently quit the show and was replaced by Kenya Bell, separated wife of former NBA player Charlie Bell, and Kesha Nichols, ex-girlfriend of NBA player Richard Jefferson, in the currently airing fourth season. All of the women with the exception of Evelyn, Suzie and Kesha are African American.

Unlike the aforementioned shows, *Love & Hip Hop* does not claim marital status in the title. *Love & Hip Hop* first aired on VH1 in March 2011. The show is based around Chrissy, an African American and Cuban woman who is in a relationship with Jim Jones, a rapper from New York. Chrissy and Jim have been in a relationship for six years and she has been cast as the "ride or die chick" who supports her boyfriend by any means necessary. The couple doesn't have any

children, and that is the source of contention between Chrissy and Jim's mother, affectionately referred to as Mama Jones. Chrissy makes it very clear that she loves Jim and desires to begin a life with him as his wife, even though they cohabitate. Towards of the culmination of the season, Chrissy proposes to Jim with an engagement ring in a lounge in the presence of all his family and friends, including Mama Jones. Mama Jones angrily departs, citing Chrissy as disrespectful for not involving her in plans where her son is concerned. Jim never says “yes” but accepts the ring and kisses her. Chrissy's close friend on the show is Emily, a Puerto Rican celebrity stylist for various rappers, including her boyfriend and father of her child, Fabolous. Emily is cast as the pathetic, desperate woman who loves her boyfriend unconditionally even though he refuses to acknowledge his love for her or their relationship publicly. In fact, Fabolous never makes an appearance on the show even though Emily lives with him, which is why Emily is never shown at home. In what transformed into one of the most disheartening and memorable moments from this particular story line, Emily schedules a family portrait session with her older daughter from a previous relationship, Fabolous and their son. Fabolous did not attend the family portrait session, and Emily is seen crying as all of her calls to him go unanswered while their son Jo'han is wildly running throughout the studio. Olivia, a R&B singer who had a short, successful stint with G-Unit (a rap group), is cast as the tragically Black single woman trying to gain the respect of her peers and prove to the world that she is a true R&B singer rather than a commercial voice used for the choruses of rapper's songs. Mashonda, a former R&B singer who was married to Swizz Beats, a prominent hip-hop producer and rapper, was also featured on the show. Mashonda recounts how her husband had an extramarital affair with another successful R&B singer (Alicia Keys) and left her while she was pregnant with their second child. The final cast member is Somaya, a struggling, verbally aggressive Latino rapper who was ostracized from the onset. The

show's introduction features all of the women except Somaya in white gowns walking through an alley while Somaya is shown exiting a black car in a black spandex outfit. The second season began without Mashonda and included Yandy, Jim Jones's manager, and Kimbella, the mother of Juelz Santanna's (Jim Jones's group member) son. *Love & Hip Hop* presented countless verbal arguments and two physical altercations throughout the first two seasons as these women played out roles that have been loosely provided to them by the show's producers.

Due to allegations of *Love & Hip Hop*'s producers intentionally trying to defame their cast, Chrissy, the main character, decided to leave the show, and she took Emily and Kimbella with her, leaving only Yandy and Olivia behind. The third season began in 2013 with a few new controversial additions: Raqi Thunder, a radio personality/aspiring DJ who alludes to being promiscuous with men in the entertainment industry; Rasheedah Ali, a celebrity shoe stylist who is most notable for allegedly stabbing a bodyguard in the face at a NYC nightclub in 2011; Tahiry, ex-girlfriend of rapper Joe Budden; and finally Jen-the-Pen, a Caucasian, Protestant former radio personality who is in a relationship with and shares a son with a devout Muslim rapper/producer, Consequence. The first show of the third season presented a physical altercation between Tahiry and Raqi Thunder over rapper Joe Budden, a person with whom neither one of them at the time was romantically involved.

All three of the shows present numerous physical altercations and countless verbal confrontations between the cast members. The most controversial fight that occurred on *Love & Hip Hop* aired during the first episode of season two on November 14, 2011. Chrissy confronted Kimbella (a new castmate) immediately after Kimbella revealed to Emily that on numerous occasions she had slept with Emily's boyfriend (Fabolous), including during Emily's pregnancy.

Feeling the need to protect the shy and reserved Emily, Chrissy immediately leaped off the couch, causing the most talked about *mêlée* of the series.

I now will conduct a framing analysis of how *TheYBF* and *Bossip* presented all of the cast members from the three shows in 2012 and a discourse analysis on the comments section to explore whether the African American blog readers resisted the negative stereotypes and portrayals.

Chapter 4: Framing Analysis of Blogs

At first glance, TheYBF and Bossip appear to have the same content, layout and tone. However, as I gathered the data it became increasingly evident that the two blogs and their agendas are inherently different. This chapter will address the content and layout of the blog posts for each site about each show. First I will discuss the types of articles and trends that TheYBF exhibits for *Real Housewives of Atlanta*, *Love & Hip Hop*, and *Basketball Wives*, and then I will do the same for Bossip. While examining the content and common themes, I will also conduct a framing analysis of how both blogs present each of the shows in the posts.

TheYBF posted 46 articles about *Real Housewives of Atlanta*, *Love & Hip Hop*, and *Basketball Wives* for 2012 - 31 stories about *Real Housewives of Atlanta*, seven stories about *Love & Hip Hop*, and eight stories about *Basketball Wives*. This does not include recaps of each of the shows. TheYBF sporadically posts an embedded video of the show's most recent episodes. This is not done every week and there is no apparent trend to why they post some episodes and not others. Of the episodes that TheYBF does post, all of posts included the episodes that contained the physical altercations. However there were other posted episodes that did not include any fights. When they do decide to post an episode, they place the title of episode and "[VIDEO]" at the end. In most cases, the post is concluded with a question for the audience regarding their thoughts about the episode, with questions similar to "What do you think???"

TheYBF posted more articles about *Real Housewives of Atlanta* than the other two shows combined, by more than double. The majority of the stories were posted in the first and the last three months of the year. This is consistent with the airing of the fourth and the fifth season. The fourth season premiered on November 6, 2011, and ended on April 8, 2012, while the fifth season began on November 4, 2012, and ended on March 31, 2013. More posts were generated

during the airing of the shows while middle of the year reflected posts about which cast members were fired and speculations about new additions to the show.

There was a great deal of discourse about the negative stereotypes presented on *Real Housewives of Atlanta*. TheYBF documented much of this discourse from celebrities not affiliated with reality television as well as the actual members of the show. The very first post of the year that was not a recap of an episode was published on February 3, 2012. The headline read “IT’S ON! NeNe Leakes SNAPS BACK At Brian White, Says He’s Just JEALOUS!” During an interview with a different online magazine, *Hello Beautiful*, Brian White, an African American actor, said about NeNe “You can’t call it a stereotype if it’s the majority. The most prevalent image in urban society right now is women like Nene Leakes. If there’s a fight that breaks out on ‘Love & Hip Hop’ those people are on every blog, the cover of every magazine the next week.” NeNe’s response made headlines as she acknowledged the stereotypes but made a distinction between herself and the show from having anything to do with the stereotypes. She responded through twitter with a series of tweets differentiating *Real Housewives of Atlanta* from *Love & Hip Hop* and *Basketball Wives* by saying “Housewives of the A & Hip Hop Wives [are two] very different shows! I don’t recall seeing fist fights on our show! I however do watch their show” Ultimately, she blamed Brian White’s comments on jealousy because at that time she had recently accepted a role on FOX’s *Glee*. This would not be the last time that NeNe publically responded to audience members about her validity as an actress. Later on in the year, on November 28, 2012, TheYBF posted an article “NeNe Pops Back At The HATERS & Asks Why Blacks Support Kim K. & Not HER” that summarized an interview that NeNe had with the online magazine, *The Daily Beast*. The interview referenced the backlash NeNe received when

she was on the cover of the “Money, Power & Respect” issue of *Ebony* magazine. NeNe defended her rights to the cover of the magazine by saying:

“I absolutely deserve to be on the cover...This cover is about money, power, and respect. And it’s about a come-up story and I’m the one that had that story this year ... Not only did I come out as a reality star that was very boisterous and vivacious and outspoken and all those things. I flipped that into money and respect. And a lot of people can’t do that”

NeNe finds herself having to not only justify her validity as an actress, a job that is independent of her husband, but also as a woman who deserves respect. She also compares herself to Kim Kardashian and says: “[African Americans] just don’t support one another... But it’s OK for you to go pick up a magazine cover with Kim Kardashian. She’s my girl. We are cool... But her story ain’t no different than mine. You know what I mean? I might’ve worked at the strip club, but she made a sex tape.” TheYBF’s post acknowledged that NeNe made some “great points” and also presented a positive outlook for her future by saying “at some point, folks will possibly respect that and will not call her a famous for nothing chick with no talent--like some other people we know.”

Six other articles also referenced the stereotypes of promiscuity or aggression in relation to *Real Housewives of Atlanta*. One post entitled “POT MEET KETTLE: Marlo Hampton & Kim Zolziak Face Off About Hoe-ness On Part 2 Of ‘RHOA’ Reunion” detailed the televised argument between Marlo and Kim about who was more promiscuous. Marlo, who is African American, had a reputation of dating wealthy men as her only source of income. At the time Kim was engaged to a married man. The argument took place on the reunion show, and the article included direct quotes, video clips and images of the women screaming at each other. Ultimately the blog post ended with “While this is pure hilarious satisfaction to watch, arguing about who plays their ho-role best is really a lose-lose for everyone. I mean, really.” Ultimately Kim and Marlo were arguing over who was the more profitable whore and TheYBF felt that such a

disagreement was an exercise in futility because the foundation of the argument rests upon the premise that both women have identified themselves as whores. Shereé was also featured in another article concerning the physical and verbal aggression on the show. However in this case, she uses the aggression as the reason for her departing the show, even though in previous posts, it was alleged that she was fired. NeNe was also featured in two articles (“ON THE SET: NeNe Leakes Pours Her DIAMONDS In The Tub For EBONY's December/January 2013 POWER Cover” and “NeNe Leakes DISHES To VIBE About ‘RHOA’ Season 5, Moving to Network Television And FIGHTING on Reality TV”) where she again distanced herself from her other castmates and other reality television shows that encourage fighting, even though she has been involved in two physical altercations on the show and countless quarrels throughout the five seasons. NeNe said in regards to other reality television shows, “It has just gone too far. Too many fights, my God! I can see if there was one here or there. And I always say to people when they say something about reality, you can say whatever y’all want about reality TV, Atlanta Housewives, we don’t do that.” Though this seems a bit hypocritical, NeNe does believe that she holds a higher social position than the other women, highlighting a class issue.

During the first episode of season four, NeNe discussed her financial status regarding the various acting opportunities that she garnered as a result of her notoriety on *Real Housewives of Atlanta*. During an argument with her fellow castmate, Sheree, about a paid engagement that NeNe allegedly stole from Sheree, NeNe said, “I’m very rich, bitch.” This phrase, similar to a few others such as “Who gon check me boo” (Who’s going to check me boo) in this series – meant to chastise someone for attempting to correct her because she believes she is in a higher position both socially and financially – became a catch phrase and grew to prominence, so much so that the cast member’s financial status became a topic of discussion on the show and in

cyberspace. TheYBF wrote seven stories about the financial status of the cast. One article, entitled “ARE THEY “VERY RICH“?: The Alleged Salaries Of The Real Housewives Of Atlanta”, detailed the salaries that each cast member received for filming the fourth season in addition to the bonus for the reunion specials. TheYBF questioned the validity of their claims to wealth immediately in the headline with the question posed and by beginning the post with *Hello Beautiful* posted the alleged salaries of the “RHOA” stars and they are actually make pretty good money....if all is true.” The post listed each cast member and their income for the season and the reunion special. As initially suggested, the article confirmed that NeNe made \$300,000 more than Kim Zolciack, who was the second highest paid member of the show. TheYBF then ended the post by again questioning the validity of the cast’s earning capacity by comparing them to the all-White female cast of their sister show, *Real Housewives of Beverly Hills*: “Reportedly, The “Housewives of Beverly Hills” cast drew in about \$165K max...for the season. And they had one of the highest rated seasons of the whole franchise last season. So the RHOA numbers do seem a bit inflated. But who knows. Either way...we all know faking it till you make it is a Housewife specialty.” That the cast from *Real Housewives of Atlanta* may not have earned more than their all-White counterparts was acknowledged by the site’s readers and was extensively commented on, which will be discussed in the following chapter.

TheYBF made another reference to the popularized statement “I’m very rich, bitch” in the post “RECAP: Verbal Shots FIRED At ‘RHOA’ Season 4 Reunion, Kandi Reveals Her New Man!” as they summarized the details from the reunion show that aired the prior night. TheYBF wrote “NeNe Leakes and Sheree Whitfield argued about NeNe's “I'm very rich bitch” statement that became this year's catch phrase. Sheree brought up that NeNe couldn't have made that much TV money since CNN talk show host, Piers Morgan also was on “Celebrity Apprentice” (like

NeNe), and he received \$25,000 and won. Similar to the comparison made before between *Real Housewives of Atlanta* and *Real Housewives of Beverly Hills* about income, TheYBF references another income comparison between NeNe, this time a White male, Piers Morgan. Both instances question the cast's worth and value compared to White counterparts. This post also provides another example of the aggression on the show as TheYBF continues to recap the reunion show with the following statement: "So during their verbal bout, NeNe asked Sheree 'What's your status at the bank?' In what many people considered a low blow, Sheree brought up NeNe's son Bryce and his Walmart shoplifting incident. NeNe (finger pointing) warned, 'Don't go there with the kids.'" The pettiness of the argument regarding who was indeed richer culminated with Sheree referencing NeNe's son, which is generally a topic considered taboo. TheYBF also reinforced the physical aggression by adding "(finger pointing)" in the middle of the statement to reflect the intensity of NeNe's remark.

2011 was an explosive year for *Love & Hip Hop*, with the second season premiering on November 14, 2011, and ending on January 23, 2012. This third season did not start until January 7, 2013. This explains the significant difference in the number of posts about *Love & Hip Hop* compared to *Real Housewives of Atlanta*.

The headline of the first article TheYBF posted about *Love & Hip Hop* in 2012 was 'Love & Hip Hop' MIAMI THROWDOWN: Chrissy VS. Yandy" The post highlighted an escalated fight between Chrissy and Yandy over Jim Jones, who played long-time boyfriend to Chrissy and artist to Yandy. Chrissy felt Yandy disrespected Jim Jones and herself when she emailed her letter of resignation to Jim and cautioned him about spending money on elaborate gifts for his girlfriend, Chrissy. With an already strained relationship, the two women needed to be pulled away from each other in the club. TheYBF seems to always pose questions to

encourage its audience members to engage in online debate. In this particular case, the following questions were posed: “Is there deep rooted jealousy on one or both ends? Did Yandy and Jim have something MORE than a professional relationship going on, and Chrissy feels threatened by it? Or is Yandy threatened by Jimmy wifing up Chrissy because she knows Chrissy will always have one shoe up on her?” It is important to note, the altercation itself was never questioned, only the motivation behind it.

Similar to TheYBF’s posts about *Real Housewives of Atlanta*, the site also featured one article that addressed stereotypes of physical aggression entitled “EXCLUSIVE: Emily B DISHES Mother's Day Advice On Setting An Example For Social Networking, Relationships & Not Fighting On TV!” This article was an exclusive interview TheYBF conducted with Emily where she explained why she did not participate in any fights during her two season tenure with the show. Emily said “There are a lot of women who fight on television and I promised myself that I would never do that. My advice to women who are put in bad situations in front of their kids is to shut down! You don't have to participate in the madness.” She continued to explain the importance of her children to her and what it means to set a good example for them by saying: “It's my motivation, my kids are everything. I don't know what I would do without them...I don't need anything else but my kids.” Her greatest concern, she confided, is appearing weak in her relationship with her youngest son’s father. She said she recognizes that the first season of the show made her appear to be desperate by chasing after a man that never publically acknowledged her. Appearing weak to the public was the only concern she had about her image and the example that she was setting for her daughter, who was 14 at the time.

Of the seven articles TheYBF posted about *Love & Hip Hop*, four were purely sex driven with headlines such as “BOOTY BATTLE: Emily B. VS. Maliah Michel In WOLFORD'S Tiger

Print Dress” and “ON THE SET: Evelyn Lozada & Chrissy Lampkin PLAY With Each Other's Ta-Tas!” The first post begins with “Two ladies with ample assets rocked the same fitted navy Tiger Print Dress by WOLFORD (\$575). Decide if ‘Love & Hip Hop’ star Emily Bustamante or Drake's ex Maliah Michel rocked it better...” shows two pictures of both women in the same dress, and continues on to describe how each women accessorized the dress differently. TheYBF uses “ample assets” to describe the women’s buttocks because both are known for having larger than average posteriors. The post concludes with the question “Who ran it?” meaning who looked better and again hyper-sexualizes the women by reducing them to their physical appearance. The second article presents images from a photo-shoot for the magazine, *Vibe* and begins with “Things got VERY heated behind the scenes when Evelyn Lozada and Chrissy Lampkin did a recent photo-shoot together. Drinks and glasses weren't thrown.....but there was a lot of um.....‘touching.’” This statement jokingly references the women “playing” with each other in a sexual manner but says it was jovial. That TheYBF felt it needed to note that drinks were not thrown, but “things got very heated” and there was “touching”, again assumes that aggressive behavior or fighting is the norm.

The other three posts focused on the birth announcement of Kimbella’s daughter and the controversy surrounding the choice and gathering of the new cast for the upcoming third season that would debut on January 7, 2013. The new cast of *Love & Hip Hop Atlanta* was documented in the last quarter of the year in the final two posts: “REALITY BEEF: "Love & Hip Hop" Newbie Tahiry BLASTS Ex Joe Budden, Says SHE Makes Him Relevant” and “CONFIRMED: "Love & Hip Hop" NYC Season 3 Kicks Off With Yandy, Olivia, NEW COUPLE Rich Dollaz & Erica Mena & COUPLE & Jen The Pen & Consequence” The third season of the show had mostly a new cast, with the exception of two people, Olivia and Yandy - who each made their

debut on the first and second season respectively. Many audience members were concerned with the future of the show because of the new members. The first article shows screenshots of Tahiry's tweets cursing at Joe Budden because he allegedly made references to her on his mix-tape (an album released independently). At this time, VH1 had not confirmed Tahiry as a new cast member, but one of her tweets said "@joebudden feed the audience what [you] want. I fight every episode they try to feed me with your sorry ass." This statement fueled the rumors of her being one of the newest cast members and also allowed TheYBF to set the stage for even more controversy as they divulged more information with the following statement: "So it seems like Joe hasn't filmed any scenes with Tahiry....yet. And the fact [that] his new girlfriend is supposedly on the show too makes things extra interesting. But once Mona Scott Young gets a whiff of all this, there's no way she'll let this pass her by." Here TheYBF plants the seed of aggression between Joe Budden's ex-girlfriend and new girlfriend, and even states that Mona Scott Young, (the producer of *Love & Hip Hop*), will not forgo the opportunity to present both women on the show fighting over Joe Budden. The second article presents the confirmed list of the cast with snarky commentary, attached such as: "Meanwhile, Fabolous' ex-assistant (who we saw having mad convos with Emily B. last season), Winter, will also be on the show. Apparently she's writing a tell-all about all her famous ex-boyfriends. Sigh." and "Yep, Erica & Rich are now confirmed as a couple according to VH1. Which explains their shopping outing this week. So that ought to be interesting." The post culminates with "There were a whole lot of 'Who' and 'WTF' questions flying from our mouths as we wrote this, but whatevs. We'll be watching." which also questions the cast member's qualifications to be on the show.

The fourth season of *Basketball Wives* aired on February 20, 2012, and ended on May 28, 2012. There were only nine articles published on TheYBF about this show. The posts were

sporadically published throughout the year, and not in any particular relation to when the actual season aired. This is inconsistent with the regularity of posts found within *Real Housewives of Atlanta* and *Love & Hip Hop*. During the first story of the year detailing a physical altercation between Jennifer and Nia (Evelyn's assistant), Natasha Eubanks opened the blog post up by saying:

“As I've said plenty of times before, I still don't fully understand why there is beef in the "circle" between Evelyn & Jen. Maybe it's because I can't get through a full episode as my foolywang tolerance is only so high these days. The only comparable thing that comes to mind are dogfights....but that would be mean.”

Eubanks clearly outlines her own personal disdain for the show while also comparing their fights to dogfights. Her lack of tolerance for *Basketball Wives* could be why there aren't as many posts about this show even though the entire season was aired during 2012. Of the nine stories that TheYBF published on *Basketball Wives*, five of them were about physical or verbal aggression. The headline from the first post of the year was “CAUGHT ON TAPE: Jen Williams Gets SLAPPED UP On "Basketball Wives 4" Supertrailer!” This article rehashed the violence which is evident by the title and the first statement: “Ish [sh*t] just got even uglier on the upcoming fourth season of Basketball Wives...Guard [your] grills...Jennifer Williams gets SLAPPED and Evelyn Lozada is on a mission to whoop ass.” This statement reflects the intensity of the violence on the show and paints Evelyn as a crazed woman on a war path. TheYBF also uses this post to chastise Shaunie for her implicit role as the ring leader of the fights by saying “Shaunie O'Neal is still sitting around with the ‘OMG, I'm in shock’ face while doing nothing about the foolery.” Commentary such as this begins to paint the picture of TheYBF's and Natasha Eubanks personal disdain for *Basketball Wives*.

Additions and subtractions from the cast in the off-season generally tend to garner several posts. In “Basketball Wives Castmembers Get THE BOOT: Jennifer Williams, Royce Reed &

Kesha Nichols AXED”, TheYBF chastises Shaunie again for her implicit role in creating and sustaining violence and aggression on the show. The post begins with “And so it continues. When Shaunie O'Neal said a few days ago that 3 castmembers needed to be let go in order for the show to sustain a more positive vibe--it seems what she really meant was she wanted to get rid of those who weren't causing enough drama.” Royce and Kesha were often on the receiving end of the aggression and fights from the other cast members. As evident by their opening statement and confirmed through another quote from the post - “I'm not a ‘BBW’ expert or anything as I can barely get through watching any episode, but it just seems there are far more ‘negative’ people on this show than harmless Kesha and arguably annoying Royce.” TheYBF implies that Shaunie is a mastermind of the controversy of the show and, though the changes that were made to the cast were initially presented to make the show more positive, it becomes immediately obvious that the changes were only made to bring in new members that would increase the aggression and violence. In “TV FAB: Is Tami Roman LEAVING ‘Basketball Wives’, TheYBF questions if Tami will return for another season of *Basketball Wives* based on what a fan of the show tweeted her on Twitter. TheYBF begins by saying “Could ‘BBW’ firestarter Tami Roman be calling it quits.” Tami has been known to be verbally and physically abusive and TheYBF reinforces this by calling her a “firestarter”. The fan tweeted “I hope on the next season of basketball they bring another hoodrat bitch to the show that's not gonna back down from @TamiRoman bully ass.” The fan is clearly calling not only Tami a *hoodrat* (low-class) *bitch* but also the rest of the cast. It was Tami’s response that was the reason for the blog post, which was “@CallMeCASH_ I actually hope they do well next season-I wish all the BBW's the best of luck.” Tami seemed to disassociate herself from the show and her departure was officially confirmed a few months later. The fan replied “@TamiRoman @CallMeCASH_

you aren't doin the show anymore, why? I hope not cause of the bad feedback.” In a bizarre twist of irony, the fan didn’t want to see less aggression and violence but rather wanted a new addition to the cast that wouldn’t be intimidated by Tami. The fan seemed disappointed by her implied departure and questioned if it was related to the negative feedback, the same negative feedback that resulted in the initial tweet where the fan referred to her and the rest of the cast as hoodrat bitches. TheYBF did not comment on the fan’s tweet, probably because that type of language and tone has been normalized when discussing the women from these shows. The post concluded with “She [Tami] didn't respond to the last tweet so one has to wonder if she was wishing the ‘BBW’ stars luck because she won't be around? Time will tell.....” The ellipse was used as an alternative to fostering further conversation from readers in the comments section by asking a question.

TheYBF chastises Shaunie yet again in “RECAP: Jennifer Williams & Evelyn Lozada HUG IT OUT During Part 2 Of ‘Basketball Wives’ Reunion Special”. The post discussed the highlights from the reunion show and concluded with “Also, Shaunie O'Neal teared up while discussing how she felt guilty and partly responsible for all of the fighting and negativity portrayed this season. She said there will be a season 5 and there will be more positive aspects of their lives shown. Heard it all before.” TheYBF always seems to be skeptical of Shaunie’s true intention with the show and the responsibility that she does not take for what she created. Although she tries to apologize, in what many readers thought was an insincere gesture, TheYBF still dismisses it by saying “Heard it all before.”

Unlike the blog posts about the other two shows, TheYBF only had two posts that concluded with questions for the audience members to engage in online discussions. The previously mentioned headline ended with “Thoughts???” The only other story to end with a

question was “Sponsors Start To Pull Out Of ‘Basketball Wives’ & ‘Ev & Ocho’ + Royce Goes IN on Tami For Tahiti Episode”. *Ev & Ocho* was a VH1 reality show in production to document the relationship between Evelyn and former NFL player Chad ‘Ochocinco’ Johnson as they planned their wedding. The blog post begins with the details of a verbal squabble between Royce and Tami and continues on to include Royce’s quotes from VH1’s blog. Though this was the second story in the headline, it dominated the majority of the post. After a lengthy post about the argument between Tami and Royce, there are two sentences about the main headline at the very end of the blog post: “Meanwhile, (C.B. Fleet Company) Summer’s Eve feminine products have reportedly pulled out of both BBW and the upcoming ‘Ev & Ocho.’” And Change.org is set to announce a second sponsor who pulled out next week.” The post concludes with a question for the audience members to engage in online discussion: “Is the petition and boycott working?” Several grassroots petitions emerged to cancel *Ev & Ocho*, because Ocho physically assaulted Evelyn the day after their wedding. Audience members commented on various blogs about the letters they wrote to VH1 to cancel the show because of the domestic violence incident. Although the charge of violence was only an accusation at that time, Ocho was found guilty later.

TheYBF’s blog posts generally tend to be shorter in length, and with the exception of *Basketball Wives* always pose questions at the end of the post to encourage online discussions. Their posts discuss the stories with their opinion included, but generally leave their readers to draw their own conclusions. Conversely, Bossip’s blog posts are much longer, rarely pose questions and their headlines are acerbic in nature to draw the reader’s attention. The majority of Bossip’s posts are not original content; they may post a sentence or two before and after the shared content from the likes of TMZ or MadamNoire (Bossip’s sister site).

Bossip published 51 stories about *Real Housewives of Atlanta*, *Love & Hip Hop*, and *Basketball Wives* from 2012; fifteen stories about *Real Housewives of Atlanta*, nine stories about *Love & Hip Hop*, and 27 stories about *Basketball Wives*. This does not include the episode recaps where the embedded video of the most recent episode is posted. Unlike TheYBF, Bossip consistently posted the video recap of every episode of all three shows the morning after it aired.

Similar to TheYBF, Bossip's blog posts about *Real Housewives of Atlanta* increased during the course of the season and decreased during the off-season. Of the seventeen articles about *Real Housewives of Atlanta*, eleven of the posts presented a dispute either between the cast or with another celebrity or someone not associated with the show. The word "ratchet" which has become synonymous with slang terms such as "ghetto" and "hood" was used in two headlines: "Were You Watching: Real Housewives Of Atlanta Bring The Ratchetness To The Motherland!!!" and "Jesus Take The Weaves: Real Housewives Of Atlanta Take Ratchetness To New Levels For Reunion Show". The first story references a trip that the cast took to South Africa. Bossip used "ratchetness" to describe the cast's attire, hairstyles, etiquette and overall behavior with comments such as, "We don't even know where to begin with the airport attire because while Kandi was lookin' a little too "comfortable" for the flight, some of the other ladies wore cocktail attire and six inch heels only to change into leggings on the plane. How much sense does that make???" and "Did her braids drive you crazy too? We were probably more annoyed that she tried to clown Phaedra for 'wearing a robe from Marshalls' when she had on some dashiki. Guess it must've been 'couture.'" The second story appears to promote the ongoing disputes with phrases such as: "fireworks are going to go off": "The feisty women get together for an explosive end of season sit down with host Andy Cohen and if the trailer is anything to go by it's going to be messy" and "Newcomer Marlo is even seen calling one of the

Housewives a whore.” The story ends with “These hoes are an embarrassment!” Both stories contained judgmental undertones and use the same verbally abusive and demeaning language to describe the incidents that they are chastising the women for using.

Three of the articles Bossip published referenced the marital status of two castmates: “Meet The Newest Additions To “Real Housewives Of Atlanta”... And One Of Them Is Actually A Real Wife!”; “Guess Which “Real Housewives Of Atlanta” Star Is Headed For Divorce Court Next?” and “Real Housewives Of Atlanta Star NeNe Leakes Says Geritol Gregg’s Dirty Dog Ways Led To Their Messy ~~Fake~~ Divorce”. The first article expresses mock shock and ridicule for the show’s misnomer after adding someone to the cast who is actually married. The post highlights the irony of the title of the show because only three wives out of six members are married. The two latter stories almost seem to celebrate the alleged dissolution of two of the three remaining marriages left on the show with phrases such as: “All we know is he [Apollo, Phaedra’s husband] better get lawyered up cuz everybody knows Phaedra ain’t about no play play when it comes to court” and “The only thing greener on her side is the money. Gregg might be old as hell but he’s no dummy.”

Relationships and marital status continue to be a dominant theme when discussing *Real Housewives of Atlanta*, as reflected by the following posts: “Real Housewives Of Atlanta Star Kenya Moore Denies Getting Chopped Down By Phaedra’s Husband Apollo But Calls Him Fine As Hell!” This post frames Kenya as a hypersexual woman with an insatiable sexual appetite that is driving her to pursue her fellow castmate’s husband. In a recap of the prior night’s episode, Bossip described her behavior by saying “...crazy Kenya Moore attention *stored* her way into cast-mate’s Phaedra Park’s hubby’s heart.” *Store*, as previously mentioned, is a hybrid of slut and whore. Bossip continued their condescending discourse by saying “Although, the potential

homewreckin' ho [Kenya] raised a couple eyebrows during the incident; she claims it was all innocent.” Bossip included Kenya’s blog post from Bravo’s website where she attempted to distance herself from the charges of promiscuity. Kenya said, “I’m a very honest and vocal person and don’t consider complimenting Apollo on his physique flirting... It is still my opinion that Apollo is fine and Phaedra is a lucky woman but that is Phaedra’s husband.” The titled of the post implies that Kenya denied being “chopped down”, which is a demeaning colloquialism for sex. At no point on the show was it ever implied that Kenya was sleeping with Apollo: the question at hand was whether her flirting, or as Kenya would describe it, compliments on his physique, was appropriate. The notion that Kenya and Apollo could possibly be engaged in sexual relations in something that Bossip created and used in their headline to attract traffic to the post. Bossip ended the post with “Do you believe Kenya’s intentions were pure or was she trying to seduce Apollo with her bad skin and Ms. USA crown?” After Bossip had already provided sexual allegations, they then opened the forum up for discussion in the comments section questioning whether the audience should believe Kenya.

One blog post that distinguished itself from the other articles was “Nene Leakes: “Real Housewives Of Atlanta Is So Popular Because We’re Brown.” Race is rarely mentioned on Bossip unless it is a race other than African American or Hispanic. As previously mentioned, *Real Housewives of Atlanta* has brought in some of the highest ratings on Bravo. In a separate interview, NeNe expresses her reasoning behind why the show is so popular and says it is because the majority of the cast is African American, with the exception of Kim Zolciack who left the show in the beginning of 2013. The post included the headline and the embedded video of the interview, but did not have any commentary with it: the readers were simply left to create

a discussion on their own without guidance from the author. The remaining posts covered much of the same content about the fights and petty squabbles that TheYBF did.

Of the nine stories Bossip published about *Love & Hip Hop*, five of the posts covered the dissolution of the old cast and the assembly of the new one. As previously stated, 2012 represented a huge transition for the show. Of the original cast from season one, only one personality, Olivia, continued onto the third season. Many of the posts about the transition served as introductions for the cast and suggestions of how the new cast would fit into the roles of the previous cast. In “Love & Hip-Hop NYC Cast Revealed ... And Guess Which D-List Pair Deserves Epitome Of Bad Parents ‘Honors’ Already?” Bossip writes “We don’t know how much they’ll show of the ‘real deal’ on the show, but based on what we’ve heard Jen may pick up where Emily B. left off as the long suffering baby mama whose man ain’t always that respectful. And that’s putting it mildly.” This example shows how Jen will assume the role that Emily originally portrayed as pathetic and weak because she spent much of her time chasing Fabolous in attempts that he would publically acknowledge her as his girlfriend and mother to his son. One article, entitled “Forever A Baby Mama, Never A Bride: Fabolous Explains Why He Won’t Man Up And Marry ‘Love & Hip-Hop’ Star Emily B”, highlights Emily’s relationship with Fabolous. Emily is always described in relation to Fabolous and this excerpt was from an interview that was conducted on a separate site which had no connection to *Love & Hip Hop*. Since Fabolous is the father of Emily’s child, Bossip found a way to promote Emily’s role, and remind readers of how desperate she was to have a public relationship during the show, through another source by providing the applicable quotes from the interview: “I don’t think marriage is in the future for me right now. [laughs]... And the thing about marriage is that, I believe in it but don’t believe in it. I think sometimes people put on that ring and that paper, and it messes up a

good thing sometimes because now it's a different emphasis on your relationship because now you can say I'm married, I got this paper." The post concluded with commentary from Bossip: "Sounds like Emily won't be getting a wedding spin-off anytime soon."

Relationships continued to be a dominant theme for *Love & Hip Hop* as Bossip posted three more stories about the cast's relationship status: "Were You Watching? 'Love And Hip-Hop' Finale Leaves Yandy Without A Job, Kimbella And Emily Without A Man And Olivia Without A Deal!"; "Shots Fired: Olivia Of Love & Hip Hop Talks Maino, Yandy, And Chrissy Lampkin"; "True Or False??? Will Kanye West's Ghostwriter Rapper Homie Consequence And His Swirly Boo-Thang Jen 'The Pen' Be The First Interracial Couple On The New Season Of Love & Hip-Hop New York??" The first of these articles recaps the final episode of the second season and implies through the title of the post that because these women are so heavily defined and associated by the men they are involved with, losing one's job is the same as losing one's boyfriend. The second of these three articles references Emily and Fabulous' relationship. Bossip seems to enjoy representing Emily as desperate for her relationship with Fabulous to be acknowledged. The post began with Emily rejoicing that she was finally in the relationship she had been fighting for with Fabulous by saying "We are dating still. You know when I first came on I said, *Oh, he doesn't claim me.* He's doing all the claiming in the world now." Bossip took this opportunity to quickly dismiss the possibility that she could be valued enough to be in a healthy relationship by posting this in the following paragraph: "Well seems like the tide might have changed yet again because Fab posted the above photo of himself wearing a sweatshirt with the words: *Women ruined my life.*" The final article of these three introduced the possibility that the first interracial couple could be joining the new cast on the third season. Bossip's agenda to promote controversy is also evident in the following quote: "Cons and Jen would be the 1st

interracial couple to be featured on the series and given their explosive personalities, you can bet that Monday nights would get even hotter with their additions.” Bossip continues to promote controversy in the final post of the year on *Love & Hip Hop* as it officially introduces the cast in the post titled “Reality TV: Love & Hip-Hop New York Cast And Premiere Date Officially Announced!” Bossip promotes and teases the conflict with several phrases: “...and it’s safe to say the new season will bring huge surprises and shakeups.”; “...the third time is the charm as they deliver all the drama, heartache, success and failures of hip hop’s movers and shakers...” and the “The two [Rich Dollaz and Erica Mena] have recently begun mixing business with pleasure, but could this be a recipe for disaster?” The post ends with the following question posed to the readers “Will you be tuned in to all the ratchetness and fawkery in the city that never sleeps??” Again ratchet is used to describe the cast’s behavior and *fawkery* is also used, which is a term that Bossip created meaning a deplorable and ridiculous act.

Basketball Wives appears to be Bossip’s favorite show to publish stories about. Due to the increased number of altercations compared to *Real Housewives of Atlanta* and *Love & Hip Hop*, *Basketball Wives* is presented as the most aggressive show, with the majority of the posts discussing the fights. Of the 27 blog posts published, twelve of the stories focused on physical or verbal assaults. Of these twelve stories, most of the posts were rehashes of various fights aimed to continue online discussions. One post went as far as to compile all of the fights from *Basketball Wives* in an article entitled “When Slores Go Wild: A History Of Basketball Wives Feuds And Ugly Fights,” which included eight videos of different fights. This post also highlights the language used when discussing the cast of *Basketball Wives*. Terms such as “slore” and “ratchet” are far more prevalent when discussing women from this show compared to

the other two. Bossip promotes the violence as evident by the title and the introduction of the video:

“These broads loooooove to fight. Basketball Wives is a great show. And by ‘great’ we mean ‘wonderful place where groupies pretend to not be hoes and cat fight all the damn time’. It’s majestic. Our favorite part? It’s the catfights! Let’s take a look back at the memorable fights from Basketball Wives.”

Again, these women are referred to as *broad*s, *hoes* and *groupies* (women who use sex to pursue affluent men for monetary and social status gain). The tone and derogatory language Bossip uses promotes the hypersexuality and violence of the women. Bossip clearly enjoys the violence on the show, as they describe as “wonderful” and “majestic.”

Bossip continues to promote the controversy and aggression on the shows as evident in the following posts: “Tami Roman Set-Trippin’ On ‘Basketball Wives’ Vacation AGAIN!!!”; “Wait, What? Evelyn Denies Acting Like A Bottle Bustin’ Wild Banshee On Basketball Wives – I Was Never A Bully.” The first article begins with “They can’t take this broad ANYWHERE!!!” Again, Bossip uses demeaning verbiage (*broad*) to describe Tami and does it once more in the same article when it states: “We don’t understand how they keep getting new broads to sign up for this ish (sh*t) when the same ish happens every season.” Bossip continues to promote and revel in the physical fights on the show, as evident by how they ended this post: “Tami and Evelyn stay giving out a\$\$ whoopings and embarrassing moments.” In the second article, Bossip describes Evelyn as a *banshee*, and even though this article was intended to present Evelyn’s acknowledgement of her behavior, the article still refers to her as *ratchet*: “Supposedly reformed BBW banger (beautiful woman) Evelyn Lozada might acknowledge that she needs to make some changes to the ratchet behavior she became known for on the show...” In an interview with Bossip’s sister website (Sister2Sister) that was reported by Bossip, Evelyn admits that the show is violent, but says the cast and the producers are working to change that:

“There was a lot of controversy... we’re not going to be physical with anyone. We’re definitely changing that.” Bossip concluded this post by questioning the sincerity of Evelyn’s statement: “Do you agree that Evelyn isn’t a bully? Or is she still in denial about the truth?” This has emerged as a dominant theme in Bossip’s content. Even when a perceived positive turn is attempted by the cast members, Bossip always concludes the post with a question that challenges their intention.

Basketball Wives has borne the brunt of numerous boycotts, petitions and lawsuits due to the aggressive nature of the cast. Bossip has documented all of these occurrences with posts such as “Lawsuits: Jennifer Williams Talks Evelyn Lozada Fallout On *Basketball Wives* ‘I’m Not A Fighter And We Need To Relay A Better Portrayal’ [Video]” and “Lawsuits: ‘*Basketball Wives*’ Producers Plotting To Sue Jennifer Williams For ‘Ruining Their Brand’” The blog posts suggest that there is a general disdain for images portrayed on the show, from both audience members, celebrities and the cast. In an ironic post from Shaunie, who is both the mastermind behind the show as well as the leading personality, Bossip published a post entitled “The Side-Eye: Shaunie O’Neal Releases ‘*Basketball Wives*’ Statement Regarding Recent Ratchetness On The Show.” Bossip makes mention of the negative portrayals that the show is responsible for by introducing Shaunie’s statement with the following comment: “With the African-American community chomping at the bit over the negative depictions (fighting, lawsuits, mockery of monogamy) of Black women on ‘*Basketball Wives*’ executive producer Shaunie O’Neal just had to say something...” Shaunie said:

“...I will never say I agree with some of the behavior between my girlfriends on the show, but if we were to edit certain things out the show would be scripted and not reality. As a woman of color with kids, I am very aware of myself, but I also have to be aware that my choices cannot be the same for everyone on the show and I have to respect that. I hope the fans feel they see a balance and know we have always been real with our stories,

even though it may not always be a positive portrayal of adult women but real women nonetheless...”

Shaunie’s statement acknowledged that though some of the actions portrayed on the show are not always positive, she feels that if they were removed, then the show would not be reality, it would be scripted. Bossip criticized Shaunie’s statement by how it ended the post: “*cough* Bullsh*t!*cough*... Shaunie, let’s keep it real boo boo (in our Evelyn voice) birds of a feather flock together. Y’all can’t be that different.” Not only does Bossip reject Shaunie’s defense of the portrayals presented, it also rejects her claim that she is or could ever be different from her castmates.

Other celebrities such as actress, Tia Mowry were the focus of one post entitled “Magazine Covers: Tia Mowry Is Front And Center On This Month’s Vibe Vixen, Talks Being An Author, ‘The Game’, And What She REALLY Thinks About The Basketball Wives!” While Mowry claims to have never watched the show, she recalls the issues she dealt with when trying to shop her own reality television show that features her with her twin sister. Mowry described how difficult it was for her to secure a network outlet for her show because it wasn’t negative and violent. Many of the producers that declined to air her show due to the lack of conflict openly compared her and her sister to *Basketball Wives* and the other reality shows as the reason why they would not move forward with production. A Huffington Post interview with Tamia, a singer and actual wife to NBA player Grant Hill, was featured on a Bossip post entitled “Tamia Speaks The Real On Basketball Wives: ‘It’s Misleading And Definitely Not Reality, It Paints A Bad Picture Of The Actual Wives And Players.’” Tamia explained that while the show may be interesting to watch, it’s not reality and it also negatively portrays “real” wives of NBA players, as well as the men who are often portrayed to be cheaters and absent fathers on the show. Tamia

offers a unique perspective because she is not a cast member of any reality show and has a career of her own that was established prior to her relationship with Grant Hill.

TheYBF and Bossip both present varying sides of *Real Housewives of Atlanta*, *Love & Hip Hop*, and *Basketball Wives*. Both blogs are awash with colloquialisms and slang, but TheYBF seems to present the stereotypes by default when recounting the stories, while Bossip actively reinforces and promotes the stereotypes of the jezebel and the sapphire by using degrading language such as *bitch*, *ratchet*, *slore*, *hoe*, and *broad* as they rehash all of the controversy from the shows. Close attention was paid to the headlines of each story because of the layout of both websites. Both blogs present the headline, image and one to two sentences to capture the attention of the reader and encourage clicking on the link to open the full story. This is significant because it is much easier for the casual reader to simply scroll through the blog reading the headline and the brief summary. In the framing analysis of both blogs on all three shows, several dominant themes emerged that have direct correlations to the jezebel and sapphire stereotypes. In relation to the jezebel stereotype, hypersexuality and promiscuity were constant themes reflected in the verbiage used to describe the women and their actions. Fitting with the jezebel stereotype, the value of the women on these shows tend to be determined based on their relationship with the man/men with whom they are associated. Alternatively, aggression emerged as a theme from the show and was heavily documented, while *ratchetness* was also a theme frequently tied to aggression. Contrary to my original thoughts, the mammy did not emerge as a stereotype in any of the shows or the blogs.

A discourse analysis of the comments sections of these blog posts will answer the second part of the research question that addresses how audience members accept, reject or reinforce the

stereotypes (jezebel and sapphire) and common themes (promiscuity, value based on relationships with men, aggression and ratchetness) that are presented on the show and blogs.

Chapter 5: Discourse Analysis of Blog Comments

Though both blogs reflect the negative and controlling stereotypes presented in *Real Housewives of Atlanta*, *Love & Hip Hop*, and *Basketball Wives*, only Bossip seems to frame the stories to further exacerbate these images. Bossip continually rehashes the controversy, as when a Bossip post compiled 8 of the “biggest” fights from *Basketball Wives*, while TheYBF presents the story usually with a disapproving tone. Though there may be representations of the mammy and other stereotypes in other popular culture platforms, because sex and aggression are overarching themes of this genre, it eliminates room or even a purpose for other stereotypes to coexist with the jezebel and sapphire.

Bossip spends minimal if any attention questioning why the cast members are portraying these negative stereotypes by fighting and engaging in demeaning behavior. Rather, Bossip is more concerned with trying to reinforce and promote the negative stereotypes to prolong the conversations through apportioning blame. TheYBF also prolongs the conversation, but through questioning who was wrong or asking what the reader thinks. In both cases, the agendas are the same: prolong the conversation by engaging the readers in online discussion in the comments section of each post.

The comments section of TheYBF and Bossip, where readers share their beliefs and ideas, tell a similar story. This section becomes a breeding ground for verbal aggression that mirrors the same type of verbiage used on the shows and in the blogs. The comments present a wide spectrum of opinions, from calls to boycott the shows to defending the shows as pure entertainment or real life. The discourse analysis will focus on the comments linked to the posts whose central themes reflect the jezebel and the sapphire stereotypes.

Within the jezebel stereotype, as noted before, the themes that emerged from the blogs are that women are valued in relation to the man/men they are associated with and promiscuity. For example, Emily from *Love & Hip Hop* is always described in relation to her son's father, Fabolous (rapper). On "EXCLUSIVE: Emily B DISHES Mother's Day Advice On Setting An Example For Social Networking, Relationships & Not Fighting On TV!", Inga, an African American TheYBF commenter (photo proof) said, "I feel like there is a part of her that is genuine. In a pitiful way. But I just get the sense that EVERYTHING she ever says or does is just so fab can see and hear about it...I just think she is doing what she thinks her man WANTS to hear because she is that pathetic and paranoid he will leave her PITIFUL ass." Inga clearly supports the notion that Emily doesn't have a life outside of Fabolous, even though she is a successful celebrity stylist. Inga sees Emily as pathetic because of her fears Fabolous will leave. Another TheYBF African American commenter, NYCBlackQueen (context proof name), responded to Inga by saying "I don't see things she says or how she does things as contrived. She's just normal, and a good woman...they exist...I know because I'm one too. It's sad when the ratchetness of Black women on tv become the norm and expected, and a woman has to have an agenda when she carries herself well." NYCBlackQueen identifies with Emily and believes her struggle be with Fabolous is more about the desire to have a happy family rather than to attain social status by association. Ashlea, an African American TheYBF commenter (photo proof), also differs from Inga as reflected by her comment: "I like her. Those dogging her are just projecting their insecurities on to her. ALL of us have had life happen to us, if it's not men, its finances or family or school etc. We all want to win at everything. Reality is you can only try your hardest. She is realistic and she has a fabulous family - no pun intended." This particular post garnered a great deal of controversy about Emily's weak nature. Ashlea defended Emily's

honor and in some ways the show by placing extra emphasis on human nature. Nonetheless, though there are comments that both support and oppose Emily's reasons for wanting to be with Fabolous, the implicit underlying theme is that she still needs a man to define her.

On "Meet The Newest Additions To "Real Housewives Of Atlanta"... And One Of Them Is Actually A Real Wife!" some readers criticized the headline for discrediting the other women on the show who are married. An African American female reader, Dark Rose (photo proof), and said: "What you mean real wife? Phaedra is a real wife so was Nene at one point." Another African American Bossip commenter, Madamev (photo proof), reinforced the notion that these women must be validated through the men in their lives, in addition to highlighting presumed promiscuity of Kenya by saying: "Kenya use to date my boo Christian Keyes and othersssssssss. High maintenance H**ker." We see much of the same abusive language used on the shows and the blogs posts in the comments section. Many of the other commenters were expressing excitement for the upcoming season and hoping for new drama, with comments such as: "I'm looking forward to watching the new season and hopefully, it will have lots of laughs, drama, and excitement." (MillieG1); "Kenya and Nene bout to do it big errbody else... eh" (Christmas808); "Gorgeous ladies, I would be tuning in." Another African American reader said, "I'm looking forward to watching the new season and hopefully, it will have lots of laughs, drama, and excitement" (Piscmini).

Continuing with theme of relational validation under the jezebel stereotype, one of TheYBF's most sexualized posts, titled "ON THE SET: Evelyn Lozada & Chrissy Lampkin PLAY With Each Other's Ta-Tas!", featured pictures from a photo shoot with cast members from each show: Evelyn (*Basketball Wives*); Chrissy (*Love & Hip Hop*); Kandi (*Real Housewives of Atlanta*). The post included several photographs where the women were not fully

dressed and a few captions such as: “‘BBW’ star Evelyn Lozada and ‘Love & Hip Hop’ fireball Chrissy Lampkin couldn't keep their hands off each other....but in a good way!”; “The ladies touched each other’s um...ladies parts with Evelyn tweeting, Too much fun!!!” Between the images and the suggestive post from the blog, the readers were left with the perfect opportunity to engage in online debate. In comparison to Bossip, TheYBF posts tend to be more conservative, as do the reader’s comments. However, because of the highly sexualized nature of this post, many of the comments used sexually derogatory language to describe the women while explaining their work in relation to their men: “A BUNCH OF SLUTS ON THERE WAY TO HELL WITH THERE EYES WIDE OPEN. ALL OF THEM ARE A DISAGRACE TO WOMEN.AND I DOUBT IF ANY MAN WILL COMMITT TO THESE SLUTS” (Cara); “Awww...Look at Evelyn and Chrissy!! The two most ghetto ignorant old ass mean hoes of VH1...that are only relevant because of the men they've [screwed]!! They are doing what they do best...posing half naked and being hoes.” (Wynter); “Chrissy is not a boss! Chrissy was just lucky to find a ‘good man’ that will put up with her loud mouthed, ghetto and short Leprechaun/Manly looking azz!” (513hotgirl); “I am loving Chrissy's haircut!! And while the faces are beautiful, they all look like sluts so I'm guessing that was the theme” (piperlynn12). Each of the comments include sexually demeaning language, and *Wynter* clearly expresses that the women are only relevant because of their associated men. *Goodgirl* (photoproof) was exceptionally critical of TheYBF for this particular post, saying “Both are uneducated whores. Why do black blogs who claim they want respect for black women endorse these hos?” Though the vast majority of the readers felt this way, there were a few that defended the reality stars: “I think they're beautiful [and] smart. Do I agree with the violence, hell No but they're making their money, WHAT ARE YOU DOING? [And] stop hating [because you] can't find a man to [screw

and] take care of you. “(Gunthergirl). *Gunthergirl* acknowledges the violence of the shows, but excuses the behavior because the women are at the very least being financially compensated. In her defense of the women, *Gunthergirl* also implicitly supports the idea of a man for sex and money, and she chastises the other commenters for not being able to find an affluent man to take care of them.

As stated before, ratchetness and aggression are the common themes in the blogs and that represent the sapphire stereotype. In Bossip’s “When Slores Go Wild: A History Of Basketball Wives Feuds And Ugly Fights,” much of the comments chastised the women for their behavior, as seen in the following comments: “TAMI IS AN UTTER DISGRACE.” (Amber-Bossip’s Golden #1); “Selling their souls to the devil to make a buck.” (Tina); “Tammi and Evelyn [are] nothing more than a bully! I don't find bullying people to be cute ur grown a** women with teenage children. They're making themselves look terrible!” (Sexyniq28). One commenter, *Yeah I Said It* (photo proof), stood out from the group when she chastised the media, possible VH1 and Bossip, for promoting these types of aggressive images when she said, “[Why does the] media like gutter women like this. [The media] says hey you want the good stuff, be gutter hoodrats like this, sleep/fight/ std your way to the top because that is ALL you got.”

Ms L C, an African American Bossip commenter (photo proof) encouraged a boycott on the post “The Side-Eye: Shaunie O’Neal Releases “Basketball Wives” Statement Regarding Recent Ratchetness On The Show”: “As much as we detest this show, why do we continue to watch? How many of us are willing to boycott this show? WE as the consumer/viewer have the power! IF we stop watching, the show will be cancelled. I say let's boycott!” Of the 156 comments on this post, the vast majority held the same disapproving opinion of Shaunie and the show: “Dear Shaunie, yes everyone is an adult and different but that is the end of the line. No

one of that age should hit someone, argue and being messy when you are in your late 30s and 40s. It is disgusting. You are just as guilty always sitting [at] the head table like the master and not say anything when things get heated.” (Organicgrl); “Shaunie, hunny don't you realize that guilt by association is very real? Yeah the drama may be a good ratings booster for now, but how long will it last? Those ‘women’ (Tammi & Evelyn) are toxic. You will forever be linked to their trashy, classless behavior. And your choice to ignore the foolishness shows that you lack character, guts, and wisdom.” (The REAL reality); “There is not one positive thing about this show. I have yet to see one episode this season where they are not fighting and talking about each other” (TIAW). The only dissenting opinion was from *Blue42hike* in a direct response to TIAW: “Why does every show have to be positive? If these ‘Basketball ex-girlfriends and baby mama’ sat around drinking tea every episode, no one would watch, it would be boring. Come on...it's entertainment people! Every show can't be the *Cosby Show*.” Bossip’s commenters generally match the tone of the given post, but in this particular case, there was only one commenter that seemed support of the *Basketball Wives* and other similar shows. *Blue42hike* perceives the show to be real, but ultimately entertainment.

TheYBF posted a recap of one of the most controversial altercations from *Love & Hip Hop*, titled “Love & Hip Hop MIAMI THROWDOWN: Chrissy VS. Yandy.” The aggression presented on the show was further exacerbated in the comments section: “Chrissy shoulda beat that ass. Yandy is disrespectful dancing off the song Jims mother made. I dont think Chrissy is wrong...” (Nahla); “If a chic step out of line she’s going to check them. She's the only one who is upfront and always keeps it real. So what because the only reason why she's fortunate is because of her man...” (Tricey); “Ain't nothing wrong with Chrissy that's my girl she don't take bs and she goes for what she wants including her man.” (Jen); “Chrissy don't listen to any stupid

comments you read on [here]...I see you love hard and because of that you fight hard. Team Chrissy all the way.” (Team Chrissy). The majority of the comments echoed this sentiment, but there were a few commenters that disagreed with the cast’s behavior: “THEY ALL RATCHET!! THEY ARE ALL CLASSLESS! SO WHO GIVES A DAMN [IN] REALITY THEY ALL F*CKED SOMEBODY TO GET WHERE THEY ARE” (An); “Chrissy Get a life. [You are] making a damn fool of yourself. I guess you can take the rat out of the hoot but it’s still a hoodrat.” (Jackie).

In these comments the, aggression of the sapphire stereotype are combined with the sexualization of the jezebel stereotype. In comments relating to the blog post, “Basketball Wives’ Jennifer Williams Sues Evelyn’s Slap Happy Wig Wearin’ Lackey Over Race Track Attack,” several reflect themes of the two stereotypes: “Basketball wives are so immature, and have very little class. Why can't these women just be happy with their golddigging money and act like grown women? (Teenage); “You got slapped for talking reckless, (Bout time) now own it, watch [your] mouth & move on.” (Hp); “You are doing the right thing Jennifer. Get those low budget hoe's. You can take people out the hood, but you can't take the hood out of people. They are a disgrace to black women..Ughhhh” (Walkthisway). The relevance of intersectionality becomes more pronounced as these commenters call these women low-class *hoes* and *gold-diggers*, which is reflective of the jezebel.

The comments sections tend to add to and exacerbate the perspectives of the blogs. Since Bossip is more acerbic in nature in comparison to TheYBF, Bossip’s comments tend to have more socially and sexually demeaning language. Nonetheless, the comments section of both blogs become redundant, in that the comments are reflections in a spectrum that appears wide but ultimately rest upon a common premise. It is evident from the reader’s comments that they are

fascinated with the women from these reality television shows. The readers believe the women are real: they feel a sense of ownership as they choose sides (Team Chrissy vs. Team Ev), which is consistent with Nabi et al's (2006) correlation between reality television viewers, parasocial relationships and vicariousness. Though the commenters never declare that the women or the shows are real, this conclusion is drawn from the absence of the opinions. It is as almost if the authenticity of the shows is never questioned because it is never mentioned. The premise of all the comments posit that women are who they say they are. For instance, in Bossip's post titled, "Real Housewives Of Atlanta Star Phaedra Parks Blames Cynthia Shade-Throwing "Butt-Dial" Disaster On NeNe Leakes", Caribchica (photo proof) said, "Phaedra should just own up to what she said [and] stop blaming Nene. A true friend always put you on your guards about the fake ones." Cray (photo proof) also said, "Phaedra acted so immature when she was confronted and flat out lied when clearly her voice was heard." Both of these comments in addition to previous comments provided in the section, all rely on the premise that these women and the shows are authentic because it references character traits and behavior. The readers make social judgments and critique the women based on what is presented, but never do they question its authenticity.

A small percentage of the comments make a call to action to boycott, however this is only in relation to *Basketball Wives*. Since this show has higher levels of physical aggression and in Natasha Eubanks opinion seems to be the most abhorrent of its kind, it is understandable why the notion of boycotting is only presented in relation to *Basketball Wives*. In TheYBF's post titled "The BOYCOTT Of Evelyn Lozada & The 'Basketball Wives' Is ON!", several commenters voiced their disdain about the show: "I agree; their behavior is old and young. Time to move on to the next one." (EssDee Kae); "TMZ reported that Jennifer, Reese, and Keisha, have been released from the show! They kept all the animals! Stopped watching the show, their

behavior was making me angry.” (Jonesy); “Not only should Evelyn's show be boycotted but BBW should be cancelled. VH1 and the Executive Producers (other than Shaunie) are incredibly irresponsible as they are promoting and justifying Tami, Evelyn AND Shaunie's bullying. This is absolutely ridiculous.” (Mimi). Though some of the readers may have dissenting opinions of the other shows, *Basketball Wives* garners the most disapproval, as there seems to be a general disdain for the show and the cast. The boycott the readers are referencing was created by Alexis M. (student at Spelman College) on change.org⁵.

One common theme that emerged in the defense of the women and these shows is the permission to participate in the violence because it is a source of income. For example in “True Or False: Did Sheree Whitfield Get Fired From Real Housewives Of Atlanta???” , 38geez said “At least they [are] getting checks.” This perspective, as polarizing as it may be, assigns a monetary value to African American women. The comments ultimately lead to a much larger question about society and the type of images we actively promote: What is an African American woman worth?

⁵ <http://www.change.org/petitions/boycott-basketball-wives-evelyn-lozada-don-t-support-evelyn-lozada-s-spinoff-show-ev-and-ocho-on-vh1>

Chapter 6: Discussion

TheYBF and Bossip represent two distinctive perspectives about the reality shows and this made more evident as both blogs discuss *Basketball Wives*. TheYBF tends to be more critical of *Basketball Wives* and always presents the stories with a disapproving tone. In discussing the other two shows, TheYBF either champions for their favorite personalities as seen in the exclusive interview with Emily from *Love & Hip Hop* or presents the story as it was shown on the actual show. Alternately, Bossip actively promotes the negative stereotypes as made evident by the disproportionate coverage of *Basketball Wives* compared to the other two shows. This could be attributed to the content layout and economic interests of both sites. Under control by a media group, Bossip is generally more concerned with gaining clicks and selling more advertising space in comparison to TheYBF. Perusing through Bossip, it is nearly impossible to read a story without viewing an advertisement for at least five to ten seconds. As the original owner and main contributor of TheYBF, Natasha Eubanks seems to have a higher social responsibility to her readers because of her direct relationship with the blog whereas Bossip does not because of corporate control. These factors could be reasons for why Bossip actively promotes the stereotypes through acerbic and catchy headlines to gain clicks while TheYBF seems to be more socially conscious.

The readers of both blogs tend to mirror the opinions, tone and grammar of each blog. Slang and grammatical errors are more evident on Bossip in comparison to TheYBF. Nonetheless, the readers of both blogs perceive the shows and the women to be authentic. Though the readers may share this common premise, they still cannot be categorized into one monolithic group: they represent a wide spectrum of opinions on what is appropriate behavior for African American women. This could be attributed to the demographics of each site. The

average reader on both sites is a college educated African American female⁶. This speaks to the diversity of opinions among the African American women commenting on the shows. The audience members reject, reinforce and defend the stereotypes presented with very little help from the blogs. The blogs simply become a virtual meeting place for audience members to express and defend their opinions and even galvanize support for and against the shows. Entertainment blogs do not need to frame any of the women from these reality television shows in a negative light, because these shows have completed that task. Yet, Bossip's framing of the women and their associates further exacerbate the negative themes and stereotypes which create lead to more hostility and aggression in the comments section. Ultimately the goal of both entertainment blogs is to capture the reader's attention so she/he on the story and extend the discussion into the online realm with other readers.

Further research should be extended to the spin-offs of these shows (*Love & Hip Hop: Atlanta*, *Basketball Wives: Miami*, and *Basketball Wives: LA*) and shows such as *Married To Medicine* (a BravoTV show featuring female doctors and doctor's wives). In searching for the blog posts for this research, the posts about the spin-off shows almost doubled their respective parent shows. Also, the physical images that are portrayed with the blog posts should also be examined. The images that are posted with the headlines were either still images of arguments and fights or highly sexualized pictures. It would also be interesting to see how the discussions about these shows translate to social media. Each time a story is posted, a tweet is sent. Users tweet to TheYBF and Bossip about the posts as an alternative to leaving comments on the blog post. Both sites also heavily engage in Twitter while the shows are airing, which creates even more discussion. Looking into how social media plays a role in the promotion of these

⁶ www.quantcast.com

controlling images would also be important to this research. Future research should also be extended to the stereotypes of African American men on reality television. What does their absence convey about their role in African American families? How does their perceived sexual promiscuity add to the notion of masculinity and how does this play a role on the relational validation of the women they are involved with on reality television? Answers to questions such as these will help identify alternative ways to rebuild positive images of African American women.

The story lines of the *Real Housewives of Atlanta*, *Love & Hip Hop* and *Basketball Wives* reflect variations of the jezebel and sapphire. The shows emphasize aggression, anger and hypersexuality. The producers capitalize on the casts' sexuality and manipulate scenes to ignite physical altercations. In the few instances where some of these women have resisted the roles provided to them or abstained from entering into physical drama, such as DeShawn and Lisa on *Real Housewives of Atlanta*, they have been quickly removed from the show. The negative stereotypes are not only provided and encouraged but, conversely, when women do not adhere, they are reprimanded. Not only are these producers out to portray negative images, but they are actively trying to eliminate positive images of African American women.

It is not difficult to see how popular culture, specifically reality television, is inundated with the controlling and debilitating roles of the jezebel, and sapphire. Now that the images have been identified and deconstructed, the arduous task of rebuilding positive images of African American women for themselves and the rest of the society remains. Despite the severity of the damage that has been done to the image of African American women, the question becomes what can be done to at the very least halt the damage. Reality television shows such as *Tia and Tamara* (Style Network) and *The Braxton Family Values* (WE TV) positively present African

American women without sacrificing the entertainment value. Increasing the production of these types of shows will hopefully eliminate the need for the other abhorrent shows that continually destroy the image of African American women. Advertising budgets could also be another vehicle for change. For instance, Evelyn Sanchez, a former cast member of *Basketball Wives*, garnered a reality television deal with VH1 to cover her engagement and wedding period with professional NFL athlete and former reality television star Chad Ochocinco Johnson. During the show's post production stage, Johnson was arrested for domestic violence several days after the couple's nuptials. Several advertisers immediately released statements announcing the cancellation of their advertising dollars for the show. Though this is an isolated incident, instances such as these should be the norm verses the exception. Audiences need to realize their power in numbers and take collective stances not against the producers, but the advertisers of the shows that present these debilitating images. If these images in reality television are no longer present, the online content creators will be left with a limited number of options to present negative images of African American women. The hope here is for television to present a culture that celebrates and reflects positive images instead of debilitating portrayals and that upholds the African American woman as a human and not a source of income for networks.

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Appendix

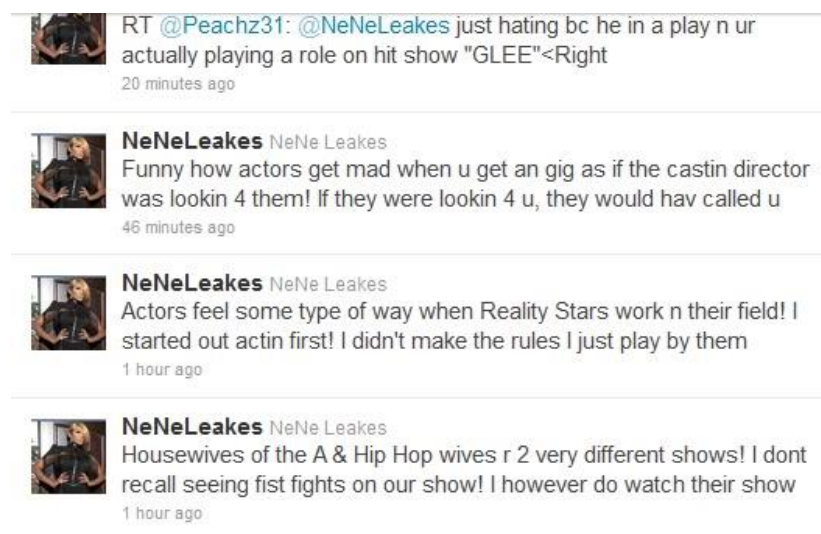
Appendix A: TheYBF's Blogs on Real Housewives of Atlanta

Date: 2/3/2012

Headline: IT'S ON! NeNe Leakes SNAPS BACK At Brian White, Says He's Just JEALOUS!

Post: NeNe Leakes (shown above on the set) wasn't too happy when she found out that actor Brian White had called her a racial stereotype" during a recent rant. The "RHOA" star took to Twitter to defend herself and said maybe he's a little jealous that's she booking acting gigs! See her response inside....

During Brian White's pissy rant about racial stereotypes on reality TV, he made a few negative comments about "RHOA" and "Glee" star NeNe Leakes.....and she's snapping back. She defended "RHOA" saying they've never had a fist fight on the show and then added that "actors" seem to get upset with reality stars when they start booking acting gigs. She just tweeted:



NeNe (who first appeared on "Glee" on Jan 17th) will make her second appearance on the hit tv show on Feb. 7th. She tweeted,

Next Tuesday nite Feb 7th I'm back on Glee! Now u don't wanna miss Coach Roz go head 2 head wit Sue Sylvester! This gone b good! #hellokitty
And it doesn't stop there...Ms. Leakes will be co-hosting "The Talk" next Wed and Thurs.

NeNe's about cashing her checks I see...

<http://theybf.com/2012/02/03/its-on-nene-leakes-snaps-back-at-brian-white-says-hes-just-jealous>

Date: 2/16/2012

Headline: UPGRADE! Kandi Burruss Shows Off Her New House!

Post: That Bravo money is really coming through these days (not as if she needed it though). Successful singer/songwriter Kandi Burruss just copped herself a brand new house. Check out the big beautiful home she and her daughter Riley will be packing up to move into inside...

"Real Housewives of Atlanta" star Kandi Burruss has been working hard these days with a new sex toy line, a Spades app, writing music for stars in different genres of music, her new Bravo spinoff reality show, and her late night web show Kandi Koated Knights.

So her hard work has paid off into a brand new home. She tweeted the pic above of herself outside the gates of her new home and said:

Just got a new house!!!!!! So much work to be done....

Sweet! She and 9-year-old daughter Riley will be moving from their current home in Fayetteville, GA, pictured below:

<http://theybf.com/2012/02/16/upgrade-kandi-burruss-shows-off-her-new-house>

Date: 3/27/2012

Headline: REALITY CHICKS: "BBW" Star Kenya Bell Becomes A VIDEO CHICK + NeNe Leakes LANDS Role On NBC Pilot "The New Normal"

Post: NeNe Leakes has landed a recurring role on "Glee" creator Ryan Murphy's NBC comedy pilot "The New Normal." "Atlanta Housewife" NeNe would play a character named Rocky on the show, which follows a blended family of a gay couple and their surrogate.

Glad to see her copping real acting jobs. And not just reality tv acting....

<http://theybf.com/2012/03/27/bbw-star-kenya-bell-dances-sexily-in-kjons-bad-gurl-video>

Date: 4/9/2012

Headline: ARE THEY "VERY RICH"?: The Alleged Salaries Of The Real Housewives Of Atlanta

Post: Hello Beautiful posted the alleged salaries of the "RHOA" stars and they are actually make pretty good money....if all is true. NeNe Leakes (the "rich" one) is said to make \$750,000 a season on the show (and that's pretty damn good for a housewife), plus a \$250K bonus. So that's a million dollars total. Kim Zolciak--who made maybe 5 total appearances the entire season, oddly supposedly made the second most.

Meanwhile, her rival Sheree Whitfield is said to make close to \$700K. I hope she saved some because she's not likely to return next year. And since many people aren't feelin' her.....the options are limited.

Here's the reported breakdown:

NeNe Leakes – \$750K per season, plus a \$250K bonus for doing the reunion show

Kim – \$600K per season plus a \$150K bonus for doing the reunion show

Sheree – \$550K per season plus a \$150K bonus for doing the reunion show

Kandi – \$450K per season plus a \$100K bonus for doing the reunion show

Phaedra and Cynthia – \$300K per season plus a \$75K bonus for doing the reunion show

Marlo – \$75K – she must be available for filming on request.

Peter (Cynthia's husband) – \$75K – he must be available for filming on request.

Kroy and Apollo – \$50K – must be available for filming on request.

Hmmm. Reportedly, The "Housewives of Beverly Hills" cast drew in about \$165K max...for the season. And they had one of the highest rated seasons of the whole franchise last season. So the RHOA numbers do seem a bit inflated. But who knows. Either way...we all know faking it till you make it is a Housewife specialty. Do you boos....

<http://theybf.com/2012/04/09/are-they-very-rich-the-alleged-salaries-of-the-real-housewives-of-atlanta>

Date: 4/12/2012

Headline: NeNe Leakes And Greg Leakes Are OFFICIALLY DIVORCED!

Post: While folks have speculated that the divorce of NeNe and Greg Leakes was a "sham" storyline to boost "RHOA" ratings, it turns out that it was the real deal. Get the deets on their divorce inside...

For years now, fans have thought NeNe Leakes was faking the funk about leaving Greg, but she did! She just didn't want YOU to know about it.

It turns out that NeNe actually filed for divorce in Forsyth County on April 29, 2010, during season 3, and finalized the divorce September 29, 2011, after season 4 had wrapped. So she was keeping mum about whether or not she had actually divorced Greg likely to keep up the chatter about her personal life.

The former couple married in 1997 in Athens, GA and have one son together, Brentt, and NeNe's older son Bryce from a previous relationship.

I'm sure the divorce will be put on blast at some point during the explosive three-part reunion which starts on Sunday.

Hmmm....I wonder if Greg asked for spousal support.

<http://theybf.com/2012/04/12/nene-leakes-and-greg-leakes-are-officially-divorced>

Date: 4/16/2012

Headline: RECAP: Verbal Shots FIRED At "RHOA" Season 4 Reunion, Kandi Reveals Her New Man!

Post: Bravo's Andy Cohen played referee and ringmaster last night as the stars of "RHOA" attacked each other verbally about their antics this season. Here are the highlights:

NeNe Leakes and Sheree Whitfield argued about NeNe's "I'm very rich bitch" statement that became this year's catch phrase. Sheree brought up that NeNe couldn't have made that much tv money since Piers Morgan also was on "Celebrity Apprentice" (like NeNe) and he got \$25K and won. So During their verbal bout, NeNe asked Sheree "What's your status at the bank."

In what many people considered a low blow, Sheree brought up NeNe's son Bryce and his Walmart shoplifting incident. NeNe (finger pointing) warned, "Don't go there with the kids."

Sheree Whitfield "cried" about her ongoing child support battle with her children's father and when she tried to explain why Chateau Sheree still hasn't broken ground, you could hear Andy laughing at her!

NeNe said Sheree's home will probably never be built and NeNe named it "Neverland" until it is. Sidenote: THAT is funny.

Kandi Burruss revealed she is dating one of the "RHOA" production managers named Todd. She also said they are moving in together.

During talk of Kandi's sex toy line, NeNe said she wasn't cool with it and "doesn't want a dildo inside her."

<http://theybf.com/2012/04/16/recap-verbal-shots-fired-at-rhoa-season-4-reunion-kandi-reveals-her-new-man>

Date: 4/18/2012

Headline: Sheree Whitfield Confirms She's Leaving RHOA, Says She's "Tired Of The Cattiness"

Post: My how things change. Or do they? Sheree Whitfield has confirmed she has decided to leave "Real Housewives of Atlanta," after reports of her actually getting FIRED have been circulating for several weeks. Check out her statement about the matter on why she feels the show no longer "caters to her lifestyle"...

Despite the fact that all reports pointed to Sheree getting fired from the ATL franchise of Bravo's Housewives, she claims it was her own decision to leave. She tweeted today:

Yes it is official I'm leaving Real Housewives of Atlanta. I enjoyed my time working with everyone affiliated with the show.

She states this show has taken a turn for the worse and no longer caters to her lifestyle. And she's tired of the fighting and cattiness. Guess she wasn't tired of it the first 4 years she was a major participant in it. In a statement today, Sheree says:

"After four solid seasons of helping Bravo build the show into its most successful Housewives franchise, I have decided to leave. The direction the show is going in is no longer a fit for my lifestyle. I'm tired of the fighting and the cattiness."

"I want to be part of something that empowers and inspires women to not only be healthy, but to treat themselves with respect. I wish the rest of the women the best of luck. I'm thrilled to say I'm now a free agent and am already fielding offers."

Sheree says she'll now have time to focus on her clothing line She by Sheree (oh...) and her new fitness ventures. And she denies she was fired in NYC which led to her not attending the Bravo Upfronts party. She says she and her family were actually in Puerto Rico (pictured below).

<http://theybf.com/2012/04/18/sheree-whitfield-confirms-shes-leaving-rhoa-says-shes-tired-of-the-cattiness>

Date: 4/20/2012

Headline: POT MEET KETTLE: Marlo Hampton & Kim Zolciak Face Off About Hoe-ness On Part 2 Of "RHOA" Reunion

Post: Well isn't this an interesting convo? On part 2 of last night's "Real Housewives of Atlanta" reunion show, newbie semi-cast member Marlo Hampton joined the ladies. And made it her job to read the pregnant for a fourth time Kim Zolciak about her alleged ho-ness. So the two went at it about who the bigger ho really is. Class at its finest.

Kim may have 3 kids with 3 baby daddies (+1 on the way) and works what she has (and we're not talking about brain cells) to get the mula and lifestyle she needs. But she wasn't about to let Marlo...of all people...tell her about it. Seeing that Marlo is well known for being superficial and buying any and everything that walks down the runway with money that's very likely and

allegedly not hers, but belongs to her rich "snowflake" of the moment. And if it is her money, there's a big chance she got it illegally, allegedly, based on her umpteen arrests for bad checks and stealing.

So...

Kim pointed out that Marlo uses her "hole" to get places. Marlo snapped back saying that she and Kim were "cut from the same cloth". Then said "I take that back. You're a whore." Ha!

Marlo continued, speaking about Kim's long relationship with the very married Big Poppa, "You ruined a happy home. I've never dated a married man. Next time you talk about the whole between my legs, measure yours."

Kim responded by calling Marlo an escort. "First of all, I didn't ruin a happy home....That's a lie No. 1. No. 2 I'm not a whore. No. 3. I'm not an escort. You are. Big difference."

Marlo then insulted Kim's husband, Atlanta Falcon Kroy Biermann, by claiming that he couldn't afford the ring Kim is wearing, so Kim sold the ring Big Poppa gave her to help pay for the ring Kroy got her. Womp.

While this is pure hilarious satisfaction to watch, arguing about who plays their ho-role best is really a lose-lose for everyone. I mean, really.

Check out video from the face-off:

<http://theybf.com/2012/04/20/pot-meet-kettle-marlo-hampton-kim-zolciak-face-off-about-ho-ness-on-part-2-of-rhoa-reuni>

Date: 5/9/2012

Headline: CONFIRMED?! Kenya Moore Hints She's Joining "Real Housewives of Atlanta" Cast

Post: With the impending departure of Sheree Whitfield, Miss USA 1993 Kenya Moore has been rumored all week to be joining the "Real Housewives of Atlanta" cast. And as much as we were hoping this ish wasn't true, Ms. Moore herself coyly half-way confirmed it at a recent event. Get the deets inside...

Just when we thought this was pretty much impossible since Kenya doesn't even live in the ATL, the 41-year-old actress told S2S recently that she's back and forth between L.A. & the southern city...and she feels like it's her duty to show the proper type of woman on these reality shows. Isn't that everyone's intention before the cameras start rolling? And we all see how that turns out.

So the folks over at Sister 2 Sister caught up with the gorgeous former Miss USA at the Black Women In Entertainment Law fundraiser in NYC honoring Debra Lee on April 24th.

"I've had an opportunity recently to be on a reality show," Kenya exclusively told S2S. "I feel like it's almost like my duty to take the job because it's the converse of what we're seeing now."

"I can say that it's an already established franchise," Kenya revealed to S2S. "I'm back and forth between Atlanta and L.A....primarily Atlanta. Wink, wink!"

I'm just gonna say it. I've seriously hearted Kenya since she walked across that pageant stage in all her brown girl glory till the time she killed all those Pantene commercials....so I just don't want those perfect images of her fabulousness ruined by the foolywangery that is ATL Housewives. Or any of these franchises. Sigh. Say it aint so Kenya!

<http://theybf.com/2012/05/09/confirmed-kenya-moore-hints-shes-joining-real-housewives-of-atlanta-cast>

Date: 5/17/2012

Headline: Kandi Burruss DISHES To Dr. Drew About Sex And "Bedroom Kandi" + Sheree Whitfield REVEALS Why She Left "RHOA"...And The STATUS Of Chateau Sheree

Post: Kandi Burruss and her mama Joyce stopped by Dr. Drew's show to discuss her successful sex toy line. Watch their segment inside and see former "RHOA" star Sheree Whitfield clear up rumors about why she left the show and if Chateau Sheree is really NEVERland...

"RHOA" star Kandi Burruss stopped by Dr. Drew's talkshow to dish on her successful sex toy line. When asked why she created it, she said,

"I have an online talk show. We talk openly about sex and relationships. And from there, I got an idea of what people like over the last two years. I thought, 'I want to have my own toys'. It's an idea I thought would be fun and it has grown into something much bigger."

Mama Joyce threw in her two cents saying the line is a great idea....especially for older women. She cautioned that older women also have to protect themselves from STDs while maintaining a healthy sex life. True...but awkward convo with moms right?

Also, today is Kandi's 36th birthday!

Sheree Whitfield has opened up to VIBE about why she left "RHOA" saying, "We don't see the editing or what's going on until the few days before everyone else and I saw how it affected my kids and their lives seeing their parents on TV, in court fighting. It's just not good. So I felt like I needed to step back, because at the end of the day, I am more than just what you see on TV."

While adding that Chateau Sheree is still being worked on (straight face), she said the fighting on tv with women she didn't like and the whole child-support issue was taking its toll.

She added, “Do I think African American women are portrayed in a negative light? Yes, I do. To me it’s not a race issue, it’s a gender issue.”

So what's next for Sheree? She's working with the “Lose 5 Million Pounds” campaign and has partnered with a fitness company. Oh...

<http://theybf.com/2012/05/17/kandi-burruss-dishes-to-dr-drew-about-sex-and-bedroom-kandi-sheree-whitfield-reveals-why>

Date: 5/29/2012

Headline: NeNe Leakes DISHES To VIBE About "RHOA" Season 5, Moving to Network Television And FIGHTING on Reality TV

Post: NeNe Leakes chatted it up with VIBE.com about the next season of "RHOA," fights on reality tv and making the move to network tv. Deets inside....

Though she may be loud and "in your face" NeNe Leakes is outraged by all the fighting on reality tv. During a chat with VIBE.com, she expressed her dismay with where "BBW" and other shows are headed and adds that you have NEVER seen a physical fight on "RHOA." She also dishes on "The New Normal" and her personal growth. Here are the highlights:

VIBE: Are you still shooting the next Real Housewives of Atlanta?

Nene Leakes: I am currently shooting. We’ve been shooting for about three weeks. We have a long way to go. Everybody wasn’t expecting me to come back for this season. It was really a hard decision for me to even think of coming back because I was so tired of the whole reality thing. And not just being tired of it—I had other things in the works. But I think it’s a good idea that I’ve come back for season 5. I would love to just walk away, but when I sit down and talk with my team, it’s not... If you can do it all, then just do it all. Why leave the show when you can still do the show and you can still do The New Normal? So we’re going to see how doing everything works. We’ll see what happens. We’re taking a little bit of a chance.

You seemed a little calmer in the most recent season of Housewives. Was that just personal growth?

I really think it is. We’re looking at our fifth season—and I shot the pilot so I feel like I’m in my sixth season. When you have done it over and over and over again in the same negativity, it just wears you down. And I just feel like after a while, I just can’t do this job no more. Like, seriously? That’s how I felt sitting there at the reunion. Like, this is just too petty. Yes, I love reality TV, and I believe that you can do reality shows and have drama. You gotta have drama and entertainment, but some of the stuff has driven me insane. I do really think that it’s personal growth. It’s almost like being in a relationship and you’re like, I done taken all I can take and I can’t take no more. I sort of felt the same way with the show—I’ve taken everything I can take, I’m just tired. But I don’t know how interesting I’ll be this season. ’Cause I feel like I got boring. I gotta get some pep in my step [laughs]. We’re all sitting there and it’s all this silly, petty, who said what and I’m just sitting there and people are expecting me to really say something and I’m

just thinking, what do you say. I think you almost look better when you sit there and look at 'em like they're crazy.

Your expressions are definitely classic.

My faces are just a mess, chile. I go back and look at my face and I'm just like, Nene can you not do that. I can't help it. People always told me for years, "Whenever you're thinking something or you're not in a good mood, everything about you we read it in your face. If I'm unhappy, I can tell or you're sick." And I really can't change my face. I actually try. They say, "put a smile on your face and you go in there and you get 'em!" And I'm thinking, now that just ain't gon' work for me [laughs]. I can't keep a smile on my face and just go in there. So my face always reads. I look at the show and I bust out laughing. I can't believe the stuff that we do, and I really don't know I'm doing this stuff.

I don't know if you've been keeping track of Basketball Wives. Our current cover features some reality stars. What's your take on whether it's gotten out of hand? You mentioned that we always need drama. But the physical fighting, some people have said it's gone too far.

It's gone way too far. The truth is the truth. It has just gone too far. Too many fights, my God! I can see if there was one here or there. And I always say to people when they say something about reality, you can say whatever y'all want about reality TV, Atlanta Housewives, we don't do that. We definitely have had our verbal fights, but never physical fights. I can't believe the fighting and the bullying. It looks bad. It really looks bad. I don't like when people say it affects Black women or the Black community. I think it affects all communities. I think it looks bad on women; it looks bad on everybody. It's just so sad; it's so crazy to me. When I look at it, I just can't believe it. And, you know, I'm friends with Jennifer [Williams] and she's on Basketball Wives. I can't believe it. I almost, you know when I watch, I'm like, "How much do they paid?" [Laughs] My goodness. And then I think about—they can't want to do too much in their careers. A good ole argument, everybody likes that every now and then to tune into, but you couldn't be trying to have too much in your career because that stuff, it don't work. You can't represent a product and be that way. That just doesn't work. That's one of the reasons when I'm sitting on my show, I'm thinking I'm just tired. Because at some point this can't even help my future. You know, you would want to think that it would help your future.

Evelyn Lozada did apologize for some of her actions on the show. So it seems like there's some growth happening.

I don't know if apologizing is going to work. Now, apologizing is always a great thing to do. You need to say I'm sorry or whatever the case, but I don't know how good that's gon' work because in this case, it's sort of like the damage is already done. It's great to go back and say, "I'm sorry and I learned from the mistake." But the damage is done and people saw it. They saw it. It's a matter of if the viewers will forgive you. TV is tricky. You can do some stuff and people will tune out and never tune back in. It's sort of like putting a bad taste in somebody's mouth. Some people may not ever tune in again. And then there's some people that will tune in just to tune in and see what's gon' happen. But still, you could've damaged your career. The person that was looking at you to do something, they may not want to use you now. I can't take it.

<http://theybf.com/2012/05/29/nene-leakes-dishes-to-vibe-about-rhoa-season-5-moving-to-network-television-and-fighting>

Date: 6/1/2012

Headline: If You Ever Wondered What Was Really Under RHOA's Kim Zolciak's Wig...

Post: Kim Zolciak debuted her real hair on last night's episode of "Don't Be Tardy For The Wedding." Check out what the "Real Housewives of Atlanta" star has been hiding under all that blonde wiggery inside...

Kim doesn't let anyone see her real hair and has proclaimed to never stop wearing wigs. Her own stylist, Derek J, hasn't even seen her real hair in over a year. So on last night's episode of "DBTFTW," she got balls to make the big reveal to Derek, her assistant and the rest of the world.

While trying to determine how she would style her hair for her upcoming wedding to Kroy, she decided to throw off the wig for a few minutes to show folks what she's been hiding. Maybe it was the flu she had just come down with that caused the change up too.

And we must say, chick may want to rethink wearing these wigs because the real hair suits her best:

<http://theybf.com/2012/06/01/if-you-ever-wondered-what-was-really-under-rhoas-kim-zolciaks-wig>

Date: 8/15/2012

Headline: " Kenya Moore & Porsha Stewart (Almost) OFFICIAL "RHOA" Castmates + Kanye Gets Served A Subpoena By Kris Humphries...In A Nordstrom Box!

Post: Porsha and Kenya were schmoozing front row at the fashion show this weekend with current 'Housewives' NeNe Leakes & Phaedra Parks for a reason. According to In Touch Weekly, the two have officially signed their contract with Bravo to become the new additions to the cast. It's officially Bye Bye Marlo!

Porsha is married to retired football player Kordell Stewart (New Orleans!). And beauty queen Kenya...well I guess we'll just have to find out how she will fit into this since she mainly lives in L.A. (but calls Atlanta her second home and has been staying there during taping) and is single. In Touch reports:

Bravo has signed on former Miss USA Kenya Moore. The 5'10" beauty has lots of experience in front of the camera, with roles in Waiting to Exhale, Deliver Us from Eva and I know who Killed Me with Lindsay Lohan.

Porsha Williams-Stewart, who is married to football player Kordell Stewart, is also joining the cast. She was recently spotted attending castmate Cynthia Bailey's launch party for her new P.T. Rose Moscato in Atlanta.

Filming has already begun, a source says, and the fresh blood comes just in time. "Kim Zolciak and NeNe Leakes are still not speaking," an insider tells In Touch. "So these two will add some very needed new drama and storylines."

Bravo had no comment about the new developments, but other reports also claim that Kim's role on the show will be cut down significantly because of her new pregnancy.

What we already knew is being confirmed....kinda.

<http://theybf.com/2012/08/15/kenya-moore-porsha-stewart-almost-official-rhoa-castmates-kanye-gets-served-a-subpoena-by>

Date: 8/16/2012

Headline: "ATL Housewife" Kim Zolciak-Biermann Welcomes BABY BOY KASH KADE!

Post: "Real Housewives of Atlanta" star Kim Zolciak just welcomed her 4th child into the world. Get the deets on her and her hubby's new bundle of joy inside...

Kim and her Atlanta Falcon husband Kroy Biermann let the world know that last night, their second child together (and Kim's fourth), made his debut. And the couple kept up with the K theme of names, as their newborn's moniker is Kash Kade.

Kroy tweeted:

I'm so happy to announce that today we @kimzolciak and I welcomed our 2nd son Kash Kade, Mommy and baby are doing great!

And Kim's daughter Brielle tweeted:

'BABY KASH IS FINALLY HERE :)' she wrote.

Kim & Kroy also have a 1-year-old son named Kroy, Jr., who appeared on Kim & Kroy's spinoff show "Don't Be Tardy For The Wedding".

But the real question here is...will her co-stars and frenemies like NeNe Leakes congratulate her? Word has it Kim's screen time has been cut for the upcoming season of "Housewives," because she was so busy being pregnant and chillin' with her husband Kroy during taping. Time will tell....

Date: 9/21/2012

Headline: IT'S OFFICIAL! Kenya Moore & Porsha Stewart Join "RHOA", Snap First Cast Photo

Post: It's official! Former Miss USA Kenya Moore and Football wife Porsha Stewart are the newest castmembers for the fifth season of "Real Housewives of Atlanta." See their first promo pics inside.....

We told you earlier that there would be some new faces in the mix for Bravo's fifth season of "RHOA" and now we know that those faces will be Kenya Moore and Porsha Stewart. NeNe Leakes, Phaedra Parks, Kandi Burruss and Cynthia Bailey will be returning for what makes the first all-black Housewives cast. Kim Zolciak is being phased out, obviously. And we must say...we will indeed miss Marlo's "blessings from God."

Kenya, a former MISS USA, is an actress and the CEO of Moore Vision Media. As for her profession listed on Bravo's site--"Housewife." Apparently you don't need to be married to even claim the profession of Housewife these days.

And Porsha is the granddaughter of Civil Rights leader and philanthropist, Rev. Hosea Williams. She's married to retired Pittsburgh Steeler Kordell Stewart and has a stepson named Syre. She and her hubby have also started the Kordell & Porsha Stewart Foundation for Cancer Research.

<http://theybf.com/2012/09/20/its-official-kenya-moore-porsha-stewart-join-rhoa-snap-first-cast-photo>

Date: 10/22/2012

Headline: FINALLY: Sheree Whitfield SCORES \$75K CHILD SUPPORT Judgment From Ex-Husband Bob Whitfield

Post: Though she's no longer a part of the "RHOA" cast, Sheree Whitfield's storyline finally came to a close as she won her long hard battle for child support from ex-husband Bob Whitfield. And we all know chick needs to money to complete "Chateau Sheree" and to pay her lawyers and to finally stop getting her cars repossessed.

Bob, who signed a \$30M contract with the Atlanta Falcons in 2000, had missed 38 monthly payments of \$2,142, and now owes Sheree over \$81K.

A judge told Bob he has until November 11th to fork over \$75K to Sheree or he will face the wrath of the court. But it wasn't all bad news for Bob as his payments were reduced to \$1,000 per month for the next 12 months before they shoot back up to \$2,142.

Who gettin their child support boo?

<http://theybf.com/2012/10/22/sheree-whitfield-scores-75k-child-support-judgment-over-ex-husband-bob-whitfield>

Date: 10/22/2012

Headline: Nick Cannon Announces "Drumline" SEQUEL + "Real Housewives Of Atlanta" Season 5 SUPERTEASER Is Nuts

Post: Bravo has released the "RHOA" superteaser and it will leave fans hungry for more. Though they have a way of teasing a storyline and making you think one thing, when its really another, this season will be explosive for sure.

Some "potential" storylines include Kenya Moore crushing on Apollo (chile...), Gregg trying to get back with NeNe, Phaedra doing pet funerals, Kandi and Kim fighting and someone seems to get married, re-married or maybe it was just an elaborate engagement.

Tune in Sunday, Nov. 4, 9pm ET for the premiere.

<http://theybf.com/2012/10/22/nick-cannon-announces-drumline-sequel>

Date: 10/31/2012

Headline: ON THE SET: NeNe Leakes Pours Her DIAMONDS In The Tub For EBONY's December/January 2013 POWER Cover

Post: She's "very rich"--her words--and she's using diamonds as her bath water for the December/January 2013 cover of EBONY magazine. Check out what "Real Housewives of Atlanta" star NeNe Leakes is revealing in her cover shoot inside....

Soak up those diamonds NeNe. They are good for the skin. But are they good for this cover?

NeNe Leakes, who also stars in NBC's "The New Normal," posed in an eye popping cover shoot for the MONEY & POWER issue of EBONY mag. And it's so her.

Some folks have been calling the diamonds & champagne in the bathtub look a trashy one, but it looks like Mrs. Leakes (yeah we left on the M-R-S because we're still side eyieng that alleged divorce between her and Gregg) is just spicing up the usual EBONY cover look with her own flare we've come to love.

But you be the judge. Are you feelin' this cover?

P.S. Inside this MONEY & POWER issue, EBONY released their 2012 annual "Power 100" list. When you pick up your copy of the mag, you'll see yours truly made the list as part of "The Digetari"!

EBONY's fabulous Power 100 Gala is still slated to take place this Friday (Nov. 2nd) at the Lincoln Center in NYC. And The Roots are set to perform.

Some of the other fab folks on the Power 100 the list in their respective groups like "Powerbrokers", "The Couples", "Star Appeal", "Media Savvy", "Administrative Offices"--

Attorney General Eric Holder, Cam Newton, Catherine Brewton, Cathy Hughes, Cee Lo Green, Debra Lee, Bishop T.D. Jakes, Jamie Foxx, Jay-Z & Beyonce Knowles, President Barack Obama, First Lady Michelle Obama, Rihanna, LeBron James, Mara & Salim Brock Akil, Kerry Washington, Joan Smalls, Karen Civil, Kevin Durant, Shonda Rhimes, Oprah, Toni Morrison, Wendy Williams, Tamron Hall, Steve Harvey, Robin Roberts, Tyler Perry and TONS more.

We're honored!

<http://theybf.com/2012/10/31/nene-leakes-pours-her-diamonds-in-the-tub-for-ebonys-decemberjanuary-2013-power-cover>

Date: 11/5/2012

Headline: ON THE SET: Future's "Neva End (Remix)" Featuring Kelly Rowland + "RHOA" Premiere Sets RATINGS RECORD For BRAVO

Post: Last night "The Real Housewives of Atlanta" broke records and became BRAVO'S highest-rated season premiere bringing in over 3.2 million total viewers and over 2 million adults 18-49. Also, this was the highest rated season premiere for all key demos. And the success didn't stop on the small screen as "RHOA" had a 258% increase on Bravo Mobile and a 129% percent increase in Twitter mentions.

<http://theybf.com/2012/11/05/on-the-set-futures-“neva-end-remix”-featuring-kelly-rowland-rhoa-premiere-sets-ratings>

Date: 11/4/2012

Headline: YBF EXCLUSIVE: "RHOA" Star Kenya Moore DISHES On Her FLAWS, DRAMA With Co-Stars & Honey Boo Boo

Post: Although "RHOA" doesn't premiere until tonight, former Miss USA Kenya Moore has already become a fan favorite and standout. Find out what the former beauty queen revealed to TheYBF.com about the upcoming season, her private life and what she thinks about child pageants.

She's a beauty queen, an actress, a businesswoman and if the BRAVO trailer is any indication, she's on her way to becoming one of reality tv's most exciting troublemakers.

Kenya Moore chatted exclusively with TheYBF.com on the reasons she chose to join "RHOA," her favorite and least favorite housewife and what she thinks about Honey Boo Boo and children in beauty pageants. Here are the highlights:

On how she hopes her appearance on "RHOA" will change perceptions of women:

There are a few women on the show who endeavor to uplift and help our community- not tear it down as sometimes portrayed. I'm hoping my presence will raise the bar and show a unmitigated side to what it is like being over 40, Black, single and looking for lasting love all while trying to maintain a career, my dignity and self worth at the same time- AND not settle. I don't have it all. I hope a lot of women will be able to identify with my personal struggle. With that said, we are all real women and it's as real as it gets on season 5 of RHOA. It's not always peaches and cream. No pun intended :-).

On how she makes a living and if she has a man:

I've been a business owner and entrepreneur for more than 25 years and have worked since I was 14 years old. I am a hard worker and fighter from Detroit and I've fought for everything I have, including my crown, and am very proud of my achievements. I am an accomplished producer, author, writer, actor, astute businesswoman and I'm educated. So therefore, I'm not a literal housewife. This season of RHOA is extremely enlightening and sheds a candid light on my personal life-which I've never done before. There is a man and you will meet him soon enough on the show.

On why she joined "RHOA":

My motivation was the desire to change my lack of success in my personal life. The show was an opportunity to take a risk to do something I've never done before and step outside of my comfort zone. Additionally, the stability of being on a show affords me time to focus on having a family as it is part of my journey. There are also several charities close to my heart that I endow on the show and hope others will support. It will be evident why they are so important to me once the season airs.

On Honey Boo and if she supports children in pageants:

No ma'am! I am of the opinion that pageants help young women excel in life, teach them poise, self esteem, confidence, independence, and they promote philanthropic work. How is clown makeup and hair extensions on a child promoting anything positive? I don't support this type of child exploitation.

On her favorite/least favorite housewives:

Wow you are going to get me in trouble! I love Lisa Vanderpump from Beverly Hills but I only know the RHOA women. From them, I can say I do have a least favorite... But you have to watch this season to find out.

On what her ex-boyfriends would say are her flaws:

I have body issues; cellulite, stretch marks, weight issues... I put my spanx on one leg at a time just like everyone else! With that said, my exes always say I'm bossy! It's good in business but not in romantic relationships.

On her "celebrity" friends:

I hang out with a few celebs... but I love Tracey Edmonds and we are very close. Lamman Rucker is my best male friend. I find "celebrity friends" tend to come and go. I hang out with people who love me for me and are not my "yes" men and keep me grounded. My true friends are friends I've had for 25+ years from Detroit. Who knows... Maybe RHOA will yield one or two truly genuine friendships... or not. Only time will tell.

Watch "RHOA" on Bravo tonight at 9/8c.

<http://theybf.com/2012/11/04/ybf-exclusive-rhoa-star-kenya-moore-dishes-on-her-flaws-drama-with-co-stars-honey-boo-boo>

Date: 11/28/2012

Headline: New Season...New Mess!

Post: Kandi Burruss posed for a few pictures before heading into VH1 Morning Buzz to talk about new season of the "Real Housewives of Atlanta" in New York City yesterday!.

<http://theybf.com/image/new-seasonnew-mess>

Date: 11/28/2012

Headline: NeNe Pops Back At The HATERS & Asks Why Blacks Support Kim K. & Not HER + Amel Larrieux Preps A Comeback...With Groove Theory?

Post: NeNe Leakes has some words for the haters...especially those who are quick to support someone like successful-from-a-sex-tape chick Kim Kardashian, but completely critical of NeNe's talents & career.

Check out how she's calling out the black community, plus, how the talented Amel Larrieux is prepping for a comeback...

"Real Housewives of Atlanta" star NeNe gave a telling interview to The Daily Beast about the hate she's received after covering the Power Issue of EBONY magazine. Whether it was the fact she was being recognized as "powerful" or the pic of her in a tub of diamonds some called tacky-everybody had an opinion.

But the reality star let none of it get to her, an actually called folks to task for supporting sex-tape-comeuppance-publicity-hungry star Kim Kardashian....but not NeNe:

"It's true and I know you've heard it a million times, [African Americans] just don't support one another," she says. "But it's OK for you to go pick up a magazine cover with Kim Kardashian. She's my girl. We are cool. We talk. We do drinks and all of that. But her story ain't no different than mine. You know what I mean? I might've worked at the strip club, but she made a sex tape."

NeNe also explained that the flack she caught for making EBONY's Power Issue cover, came mostly from the African American community. But she's not letting the hate stop her one bit:

“I absolutely deserve to be on the cover...This cover is about money, power, and respect. And it's about a come-up story and I'm the one that had that story this year ... Not only did I come out as a reality star that was very boisterous and vivacious and outspoken and all those things. I flipped that into money and respect. And a lot of people can't do that.

“But listen to me, definitely all of the negative feedback definitely came from my own; African Americans were the ones that were the most negative,” she continues, adding, “And it's so funny to me because I would call [the editor] over at Ebony and she would say ‘Girl please, glass houses. That's all it is. They don't want to see you on the cover, they don't really understand the reason why you're on the cover, they don't know your story.’”

We must say, chick has a few great points. With her stints on hit tv shows "Glee" and "The New Normal," it's clear she does have actual talent as an actress. And at some point, folks will possibly respect that and will not call her a famous for nothing chick with no talent--like some other people we know.

Check out The Daily Beast for the full interview.

<http://theybf.com/2012/11/28/nene-pops-back-at-the-haters-asks-why-blacks-support-kim-k-not-her-amel-larrieux-preps-a>

Date: 12/4/2012

Headline: Kenya Moore's SUPPOSED Boyfriend Walter's NEW Mystery Chick REVEALED?

Post: So...Walter Jackson, the man Kenya Moore has moved to the ATL for on "Real Housewives of Atlanta" to get him to marry her, has been spotted with another chick lately. And the two are clearly more than just friends. We've learned the identity of the mystery chick. So is Walter playing two-timing games? Deets inside...

We did a little digging, and it turns out Mr. Walter Jackson has a rep in Atlanta for being a playboy. So when a pic surfaced a few weeks ago of him boo'd up at an Atlanta Hawks game with a chick who wasn't "RHOA" star Kenya Moore, tongues got to waggin'.

Now, we've learned the identity of the chick in question, and she's aspiring singer/songwriter Christon Ingram. Christon showed folks that basketball game pic wasn't just a fluke by posting another pic of her and a Gucci hat wearing Walter sharing some kisses (above).

Isn't that interesting? Whee asked about Walter stepping out with other women--like she was asked on "The Wendy SHow" last week--Kenya just says e have to watch to see what happens. I'm sure...

<http://theybf.com/2012/12/04/kenya-moores-supposed-boyfriend-walters-new-mystery-chick-revealed>

Date: 12/7/2012

Headline: BIKINI BABE: 40-Something Kenya Moore Flaunts Her Chiseled Beach Bod In Barbados

Post: Hottie alert! "Real Housewives of Atlanta" star and its newest resident diva, Kenya Moore, hit the beaches of Barbados this week. And the 41-year-old made sure y'all know those "old" jokes co-star Porsha kept cracking don't faze her a bit. Because she showed off her bangin' bikini bod ...including the other side of what Kenya seems to hate the most...booty crack.

Pics inside...

If she wasn't so gorge, she may get more complaints from the beachgoers and innanet folks. But former Miss USA Kenya Moore's beach body getting put on display by the paps, slight wardrobe malfunction and all, had the onlookers staring. Kenya hit the perfect beaches of Barbados is a tiny white bikini falunting her chiseled abs and 'donkey booty' as her co-star Phaedra would say:

Looks like she gave herself a little Caribbean vacay, likely sans "boyfriend" Walter, this week. And we're not mad at it. Do you boo.

<http://theybf.com/2012/12/07/bikini-babe-40-something-kenya-moore-flaunts-her-chiseled-beach-bod-in-barbados>

Date: 12/10/2012

Headline: SPEAK ON IT: The ANGUILLA Trip--Is Kenya Moore's Thirst For Marriage & Tacky Flirting With Married Men A Problem? (Plus, Walter BLASTS Kenya For Their "Fake" Relationship)

Post: Just when we thought Kenya Moore couldn't offer up anymore disappointing surprises about herself, the "Real Housewives of Atlanta" took us to the gorgeous island of Anguilla last night for the couples' trip. And it was a doozy.

We've got some things to discuss about Kenya's flirtations with married men, her thirst for marriage, and why this ish AINT ok.

Once again, we're shocked and awed about our beloved former Miss USA's behavior on this here "Real Housewives of Atlanta." Kenya brought Walter--who everyone BUT Kenya knows has absolutely zero interest in marrying her--as her date for the trip. While the other ladies, Phaedra, NeNe, Kandi & Cynthia, brought their men too.

But maybe it was al the Rum Punches that led the ladies to letting down their guard more than usual, but foolywangery ensued.

Then we got to the beggary of Kenya as she and Walter spent some alone time on Scilly Cay, another beautiful part of the island. She threw out obvious hint after obvious hint that they should get married--even saying they should just elope right there in Anguilla because it would be "easier."

Oh girl. Walter looked like he wanted to hop the next water skipper off the island--even if he had to fly that ish our himself. Chick got shut down every time, and didn't even realize it.

And after the major drama of her flirting with Apollo right in front of his wife, Phaedra, and Walter as well, Phaedra had to break out the big buns and show off her donkey booty in a mesh beach dress....with a black thong. Chick said she is keeping all attention on her....by any means necessary.

So what did Kenya do exactly? Well after dropping it like it's hot the night before in Cynthia's husband Peter's man parts, then basically throwing her coochie crack at the "tall drink of water" manager of the Viceroy hotel--right in front of Walter--she got Apollo to feel her up by the pool.

She playfully pushed him in the pool, knowing he would retaliate. And Apollo retaliated by picking up a fully dressed Kenya and conveniently dropped his hands over her ASSets to jump in the pool WITH her. Yes, the two were frolicking like this ish was a fantasy novel.

By the way, before all this, Kenya had the audacity to ask Phaedra which two of her friends she would bring into the bedroom with her and Apollo if he asked for it. Clearly....hinting it should be Kenya herself. Sigh.

Yes, Phaedra looked like she wanted to break out a taser gun for Kenya's ass. But Apollo should have caught a couple near-fatal stings as well for this disrespectful mess.

But you be the judge. Check out the clips below (including NeNe bragging about her Queen of the Strip Club days while dancing with the locals):

<http://theybf.com/2012/12/10/speak-on-it-the-anguilla-trip-is-kenya-moores-thirst-for-marriage-tacky-flirting-with>

Date: 12/11/2012

Headline: Coming Up Short!

Post: "Real Housewives of Atlanta" starlet hung out with Andy Cohen this past Sunday with a new "short crop" on "Watch What Happens Live" to chit chat about the new season!

<http://theybf.com/image/coming-up-short>

Date: 12/12/2012

Headline: EXCLUSIVE: Kenya Moore RESPONDS About "FAKE RELATIONSHIP," CALLS Walter Jackson DECEITFUL And HATEFUL

Post: Now that Walter Jackson has been seen socializing around the ATL with another woman, and revealed that Kenya Moore asked him to "fake" their relationship on "RHOA," the former Miss USA is responding to save her dignity.

In a statement previewed on TooFab (and set for a reveal on "WENDY" today), Kenya claims that Walter is deceitful and hateful and she's just a girl who wants to fall in love. Calling his statements "completely false," she says the truth about what went on between them will come to light later in Season 5. Her statement reads,

“The truth is and has always been that I want to be in a loving, honest, long-term relationship with someone who genuinely loves me for me — Walter’s recent statements are completely false. I am embarrassed that I allowed a deceitful and hateful person in my life.

He says he ‘did it for fame.’ I’ve been humiliated enough by appearing desperate for a man to marry me who now admits he had his own agenda. I urge viewers to stay tuned because the truth will come to light. I am moving on from this situation and hope he can as well with respect and dignity going forward. I have heard the fans and my friends loud and clear ... I can do better than Walter, and I will.”

Whether Kenya conspired to "create" her own storyline or not, the folks over at BRAVO can't be too happy about this. We're sure Andy Cohen will get to the bottom of this at the reunion.

<http://theybf.com/2012/12/12/kenya-moore-responds-about-fake-relationship-calls-walter-jackson-deceitful-and-hateful>

Date: 12/18/2012

Headline: EXCLUSIVE: Cynthia Bailey Works With Island Models In Anguilla During Vacay With The "Housewives" + More "Wedding" Details!

Post: Cynthia Bailey didn't just spend her recent vacay on the island of Anguilla drinking, watching Kenya & Porsha fight and getting her vows renewed. She also took some time to work with a modeling team on the island and giving them a few of her veteran pointers.

As the trio of Anguilla episodes of "The Real Housewives of Atlanta," we've got a few pics and details Bravo may or may not show you from the ladies' trip. Since it doesn't include the drama and fights.

Model Cynthia Bailey brought the skills she teaches at her Bailey Agency School of Fashion along with her on the trip. And she spent some time--in between rum punches and some QT with her hubby Peter--sharing her industry wisdom with a promising group of young girls from the Panache Modeling Team.

Cynthia gave them stories from her experiences as a super-model and spoke to the girls about the important role of self-esteem and confidence. And snapped a few pics with the ladies. Sweet!

<http://theybf.com/2012/12/18/exclusive-cynthia-bailey-works-with-island-models-in-anguilla-during-vacay-with-the>

Date: 12/28/2012

Headline: 'RHOA' BABY ON THE WAY: Phaedra Parks Is PREGNANT With Baby #2!

Post: She's pregnant....again! "Real Housewives of Atlanta" star Phaedra Parks just returned from her Christmas vacation to the Bahamas with hubby Apollo Nida and friends. And she revealed some big news. Deets inside...

Phaedra released the first pic showing off her growing baby bump on the beaches of the Bahamas. And now Phaedra Parks is letting her fans know that she and Apollo are indeed expecting their second child.

Big brother Ayden is 2 and a half now. So the lawyer turned funeral service entrepreneur will have a little helper on her hands.

Phaedra & Apollo spent the Christmas Holiday in Nassau at Atlantis Paradise Island with co-stars Kandi Burruss and Todd. Plus, reality tv homies Toya & Memphitz Wright, Rasheeda & Kirk Frost, Evelyn Lozada and everyone's kids. She seemed to always hide her belly in pics, and now we know why.

<http://theybf.com/2012/12/28/rhoa-baby-on-the-way-phaedra-parks-is-pregnant-with-baby-2>

Date: 1/30/2012

Headline: Were You Watching: Real Housewives Of Atlanta Bring The Ratchetness To The Motherland!!!

Post: Last night's episode of Real Housewives of Atlanta left us scratching our heads, and not just cuz Cynthia's singles brought back old sad scalp memories. We were mostly perplexed by

the behavior of Marlo — who wasn't even invited — yet would not shut up about proper etiquette for the first 24 hours of the trip, but still managed to get into a pushing and screaming match with Sheree where she challenged her to check her criminal record. Were you watching this isht??? SMH.

If not we're more than happy to break it all down for you.

First things first, how many of y'all have ever taken an international group trip with several people you can't stand and brought along an extra guest without even letting the trip organizer know???

Just sayin' cuz that's exactly what Nene did by inviting Marlo along to South Africa. In attempt to keep her beef with The Smalls (Sheree, Phaedra and Kandi) evenly matched, Nene's new BFF tagged along, bringing the Talls to a total tally of 3. We don't even know where to begin with the airport attire because while Kandi was lookin' a little too "comfortable" for the flight, some of the other ladies wore cocktail attire and six inch heels only to change into leggings on the plane. How much sense does that make???

We watched the show with a good friend who nitpicked Cynthia's hair for the whole episode.

<http://bossip.com/533783/were-you-watching-real-housewives-of-atlanta-bring-the-ratchetness-to-the-motherland30346/#sthash.AiomOKMR.dpuf>

Appendix B: TheYBF's Blogs on Love & Hip Hop

Date: 1/10/2012

Headline: "Love & Hip Hop" MIAMI THROWDOWN: Chrissy VS. Yandy

Post: Chrissy's post-engagement love bubble lasted all of 5 minutes after Jim Jones proposed to her. Because on last night's episode of "Love & Hip Hop 2," just as we exclusively reported back in October, Mrs. Jones-To-Be went at it with Yandy in Miami.

Speak on it inside...

Things reached the boiling point last night between Chrissy and Yandy. Chrissy was partying with her girls in Miami to celebrate her engagement, and Yandy was being her usual self and bringing two enemies to the same club together--Kimbella and Erica. The perfect storm brewed, and a fight went down.

Chrissy claims she saw a disrespectful email Yandy, who already threw deuces to her management job with Jim Jones, sent to Jimmy asking him why he's buying Chrissy bags, shoes, and jewelry. Chrissy felt this was stepping over the line--and she went in.

Yandy kept asking what her issue was--and then said the magic words, "Why she mad I get money and she has to sleep with n*ggas for her money?" WOMP. See the aftermath below:

Don't know about y'all, but I feel like there's way more to this story. No reason a woman should be THIS pissy with another woman--over her man--once she gets that man to lock it down officially. Is there deep rooted jealousy on one or both ends? Did Yandy and Jim have something MORE than a professional relationship going on, and Chrissy feels threatened by it? Or is Yandy threatened by Jimmy wifing up Chrissy because she knows Chrissy will always have one shoe up on her? Hmmm....

Date: 4/3/2012

Headline: BOOTY BATTLE: Emily B. VS. Maliah Michel In WOLFORD'S Tiger Print Dress

Post: Two ladies with ample assets rocked the same fitted navy Tiger Print Dress by WOLFORD (\$575). Decide if "Love & Hip Hop" star Emily Bustamante or Drake's ex Maliah Michel rocked it better...

Emily B. paired her WOLFORD Tiger Print Dress with black slingback furry Louboutins at BET's 2012 Rip The Runway show in NYC a little over a month ago. She ket her usual side-swept bang as she hit the red carpet before the fashion show.

And every rapper's favorite stripper (as well as Drake's ex), Maliah, rocked the same WOLFORD Tiger Print Dress to conduct her hosting duties in Detroit this PAST weekend at Club Pandemonium. She paired hers with a simple black pump and a bright yellow clutch.

So...Who ran it?

<http://theybf.com/2012/04/03/booty-battle-emily-b-vs-maliah-michel-in-wolfords-tiger-print-dress>

Date: 5/1/2012

Headline: ON THE SET: Evelyn Lozada & Chrissy Lampkin PLAY With Each Other's Ta-Tas!

Post: Things got VERY heated behind the scenes when Evelyn Lozada and Chrissy Lampkin did a recent photoshoot together. Drinks and glasses weren't thrown.....but there was a lot of um....."touching." See the pics inside.....

The ladies touched each others um...ladies parts with Evelyn tweeting, "Too much fun!!!"

<http://theybf.com/2012/05/01/on-the-set-evelyn-lozada-chrissy-lampkin-play-with-each-others-ta-tas>

Date: 5/7/2012

Headline: BOOTY BATTLE: Emily B. VS. Maliah Michel In WOLFORD'S Tiger Print Dress

Post: "Love & Hip Hop" creator, Mona Scott-Young, chatted with Justthefab.com where she revealed she is currently casting for the Atlanta version of the hit series. Though she wouldn't name names, she said that she is excited about the series and it will stay true to the "Atlanta" feel.

When asked about the Chrissy and Jim Jones situation, Mona said she adores Chrissy but thinks the toll of having the camera expose intimate details of her life was overwhelming. She added, "Right now I'm giving her some time and Im hoping things will calm down and she'll feel a little bit better." SIDEBAR: Seems like Chrissy isn't on board for season 3 yet!

When asked about Yandy, she said she thinks Yandy grew from the rollercoaster experience but admits it did have some serious repercussions for her (e.g. ending her business relationship with Jim).

<http://theybf.com/2012/03/07/tv-fab-freema-agyeman-lands-role-on-sex-and-the-city-prequel-series>

Date: 5/13/2012

Headline: EXCLUSIVE: Emily B DISHES Mother's Day Advice On Setting An Example For Social Networking, Relationships & Not Fighting On TV!

Post: TV personality Emily B chatted exclusively with TheYBF.com about navigating motherhood (and her new clothing line) while being a reality star...just in time for Mother's Day. You might say she's inadvertently teaching her daughter some sketchy things about self respect as it relates to relationships with men...but Emily has a different take.

Get her nuggets of wisdom about how she keeps her teen daughter from doing foolish activities on social networks, why she will never fight on TV & what she teaches her kids about relationships...

Stylist Emily Bustamante, the mother of fourteen-year old Taina (pictured above as a baby) and four-year-old son Johan, quickly rose to reality stardom as the girlfriend of rapper Fabolous on two seasons of VH1's "Love & Hip Hop". Now, as she juggles fame, career and motherhood, she offered nuggets of wisdom to TheYBF.com about what she's learned along the way.

On what she tells her teen daughter about fame and social networking

"You know what, I think she has learned so much from me and my experience that I don't have to tell her anything. I would let her judge for herself and make her own decisions, she's a smart girl. She's not even famous and she's already felt the sting. I allowed her to get a on social

networking site with Instagram and already she has 10,000 followers. She already feels judged and there are people stealing her pictures. She told me, 'Mommy, I don't know how you do it....I want to delete my Instagram because I don't like people in my business.' I just teach her to not let other people's opinions determine who she is or can be."

On how women should carry themselves as an example to their daughters

"There are a lot of women who fight on television and I promised myself that I would never do that. My advice to women who are put in bad situations in front of their kids is to shut down! You don't have to participate in the madness."

On how she gets her children's respect

"One thing I teach my daughter is to have patience. I'm always calm and I speak to my kids in a calm tone. I never raise my voice to my daughter. Once you raise your voice, kids stop listening. If I ever need to raise my voice, my kids know I mean business."

On what she loves most about being a mother

"It's my motivation, my kids are everything. I don't know what I would do without them. I wake up every morning and take my kids to school and try to remain normal. I love being a part of their life. I don't need anything else but my kids."

On the hardest part about being a mother

"The hardest thing for me is always thinking that my daughter will make the same mistakes as me. I got pregnant at 16 and sometimes I'm always comparing her life to mine. I had to realize that she's not me. She's a different girl and I have to know just because I did it, doesn't mean she will do it. I tell her, don't be like me.....be better than me."

On instilling faith in the kids

"As a parent, you should have a foundation in your home and that includes the fear of God."

On handling peer pressure

"When it comes to peer pressure, teach your kids to be leaders not followers and don't let them fall into the trap of comparing themselves to other kids."

On navigating the hard task of communication with teen daughters

"I always tell my daughter that if she needs anyone to talk to that she should come to me. There is nothing you're going through that I haven't experienced because I have been through it all!"

Emily told us that it's ironic that she sees herself evolving into her own mother.

"Everything I hated growing up that I heard my mom say...now I understand. My mother would always say, 'I'm not your friend I'm your mother.' And that's one thing I tell my daughter all the time."

So what's next for Emily B? She previously confirmed she is not returning to "Love & Hip Hop." But she's got her own clothing line project in the works.

"Right now I'm working on a womenswear line call Emily B. It's gonna be fun and affordable and trendy. At the same time, it's going to be sexy and classy. It's my baby right now. I'm also looking at doing a menswear line as well because men's fashion is my passion. Really....I love to style men."

Looking forward to seeing it Em!

<http://theybf.com/2012/05/13/exclusive-emily-b-dishes-mothers-day-advice-on-setting-an-example-for-social-networking>

Date: 8/30/2012

Headline: "Love & Hip Hop" Star Kimbella Shows Off Her & Juelz Santana's New Baby Girl BELLA MONROE!

Post: Preciousness ahead! Kimbella of "Love & Hip Hop" just showed off her 5 week old baby girl, named Bella Monroe James. Pics inside...

Kimbella took to her Twitter to share her bundle of joy with fans. And little Bella is pure cuteness in this pic!

Her parents, Kim & rapper Juelz Santana, have been taking some time to themselves in between diaper changes and feedings. We have a couple more pics of them partying for a second time in NYC last week:

<http://theybf.com/2012/08/30/love-hip-hop-star-kimbella-shows-off-her-juelz-santanas-new-baby-girl-bella-monroe>

Date: 11/21/2012

Headline: REALITY BEEF: "Love & Hip Hop" Newbie Tahiry BLASTS Ex Joe Budden, Says SHE Makes Him Relevant

Post: Tahiry Jose, the ex-chick of Joe Budden and possible star of the new season of "LAHH NY" took to Twitter to blast Joe for rapping about her on his latest mixtape. Find out what she said inside.....

Though an official cast list for the upcoming season of "LAHH" has yet to be revealed, we told you earlier that Tahiry Jose would likely be one of the newest cast members. And during a recent Twitter rant, where she blasted Joe for talking about her on his recently released *A Loose Quarter* mixtape, she all but confirms that she has been filming scenes for the show in NYC and that VH1 is hard pressed to have her tape scenes with Joe.



Tahiry feels like she is the one who makes Joe relevant since VH1 is only interested in him because of her.



So it seems like Joe hasn't filmed any scenes with Tahiry....yet. And the fact his new girlfriend is supposedly on the show too makes things extra interesting. But once **Mona Scott Young** gets a whiff of all this, there's no way she'll let this pass her by.

<http://theybf.com/2012/11/21/reality-beef-love-hip-hop-newbie-tahiry-blasts-ex-joe-budden-says-she-makes-him-relevant>

Date: 12/4/2012

Headline: CONFIRMED: "Love & Hip Hop" NYC Season 3 Kicks Off With Yandy, Olivia, NEW COUPLE Rich Dollaz & Erica Mena & COUPLE & Jen The Pen & Consequence

Post: The official confirmation of the new cast has just been made for "Love & Hip Hop" NYC. And it's plenty of new folks and odd couples. Get the deets inside...

Olivia is still trying to make a new album. She's also all about her basketball playing boyfriend Tarence Kinsey. And we'll see her working that out as well as trying to keep the peace with her long time manager Rich Dollaz while he simultaneously manages his new girlfriend...Erica Mena. Yep, Erica & Rich are now confirmed as a couple according to VH1. Which explains their shopping outing this week. So that ought to be interesting.

Two new faces will be rapper Consequence and his baby moms, radio personality Jen The Pen (pictured above with Exec. Producer Mona Scott Young). Yep, the same Jen The Pen that was ixnayed from Dame Dash's "Ultimate Hustler" reality show. The twosome will show their trials and tribulations as a couple as they co-parent their son Caiden. Fun fact: Consequence is Q-Tip's first cousin.

Yandy will be returning as she now has a baby boy, whose name is Omere. She and her live-in boyfriend/baby's daddy, Mandecees, will be showing how they keep their romance going. All while balancing career and family.

Rapper Joe Budden has joined the cast with a Stevie J. like love triangle--his ex, video vixen Tahiry (pictured above), is on the show and so is Raqi Thunda, a DJ folks think he's getting down with on the side. They insist they're just long time friends, but Raqi and Tahiry are at each other's throats. By the way, Raqi, pictured below, is good friends with Joe's current girlfriend Kaylin Garcia.

Meanwhile, Fabolous' ex-assistant (who we saw having mad convos with Emily B. last season), Winter, will also be on the show. Apparently she's writing a tell-all about all her famous ex-boyfriends. Sigh.

There was no mention of Kimbella returning in the press release, but here's a recent pic of her newest baby girl with Juelz Santana:

There were a whole lot of "Who" and "WTF" questions flying from our mouths as we wrote this, but whatevs. We'll be watching. The new season begins Monday, January 7th at 8PM on VH1.

<http://theybf.com/2012/12/04/confirmed-love-hip-hop-nyc-season-3-kicks-off-with-yandy-olivia-new-couple-rich-dollaz>

Appendix C: TheYBF's Blogs on Basketball Wives

Date: 2/9/2012

Headline: CAUGHT ON TAPE: Jen Williams Gets SLAPPED UP On "Basketball Wives 4" Supertrailer!

Post: Ish just got even uglier on the upcoming fourth season of "Basketball Wives." We've got the first look at the almost 5 minute supertrailer. And guard ya grills...Jennifer Williams gets SLAPPED and Evelyn Lozada is on a mission to whoop ass.

Check it inside....

As I've said plenty of times before, I still don't fully understand why there is beef in the "circle" between Evelyn & Jen. Maybe it's because I can't get through a full episode as my foolywang tolerance is only so high these days. The only comparable thing that comes to mind are dogfights....but that would be mean.

But still, Jen finds herself defending her face...yet again...from people attacking her. After she got a drink tossed in her face and being involved in several fights with her co-stars on previous seasons, this season we see Jen get pimp slapped in the face by Evelyn's assistant Nia Crooks. Yes, THIS is where that recent lawsuit stems from. And if that wasn't enough, Evelyn jumped on the huge table to attack Jennifer herself directly after the slap.

Aside from the slap ups, F bombs, and screaming matches--Royce Reed is trying to get her theater career off the ground in NYC, Evelyn is trying to plan her wedding to Chad (while fighting with newbie Kenya Bell who calls Evelyn a ho), newcomer Kesha Nichols is trying to defend herself against the "ladies," and Shaunie O'Neal is still sitting around with the "OMG I'm in shock" face while doing nothing about the foolery.

Peep the supertrailer below:

<http://theybf.com/2012/02/09/caught-on-tape-jen-williams-gets-slapped-up-on-basketball-wives-4-supertrailer>

Date: 4/24/2012

Headline: "BasketBall Wife" Jennifer Williams Defends Her Decision To SLAP BACK With A Lawsuit

Post: After catching hate and criticism--even allegedly from the VH1 staff who accused her of being just as guilty for the drama--Jennifer Williams posted a blog today defending her decision to slap Nia Crooks with a lawsuit.

Check out what she had to say about her lawsuit publicity, owning her businesses right out, and that comment about Nia's 2 bedroom apartment....

After her big press conference last week, folks were slamming Jen left and right accusing her of going the thirsty publicity route. Since she went above and beyond filing a lawsuit just to gather sympathy. Jen took to her blog today to vent about the rumors she turned her back on Nia (who she calls "the assistant") at one point, and to defend her decision to file that lawsuit after Nia assaulted her on a recent episode of VH1's "Basketball Wives".

Here's the blog in full:

And the BS continues... I honestly could not stomach to watch last week's episode. I had lived through the craziness and to relive it was just too much for me. But I would like to clarify a few things. First up, I never had an issue with "the assistant" up until that day. At one point, we were good friends. We went out together, went to dinner, stayed at each other's houses and shared plenty of good times and laughs. There had been some incidents leading up to why I started pulling away from the friendship but I don't feel the need to blast that information. However, the most important reason why I eased up on the friendship is because she started working for someone who refers to themselves as my "enemy." To me being good friends would just cause the situation to be messy so I rather fall back. No love lost and I like I said, I didn't have any issue with her until she put her hands on me.

Ok now let's get to the foolery... AGAIN!!! I just find it so unfortunate someone I once called a friend has no respect for me and felt the need to violent me physically. So of course after you completely disrespect me by putting your hands on me, my mouth is going to get reckless. I am not happy for the things I said to her but I was caught off guard and left in a vulnerable state. The 2-bedroom apartment comment got taken way out of context. I live in a 2-bedroom apartment so why would I look down on her for that. My point was don't act like I lived with you when you live in a 2 bedroom apartment with a roommate. There would be no room for me and all my stuff that barely fits in my 2-bedroom apartment in NJ. The whole attack against me was pointless. Okay, we aren't friends no need to fight about it let's all be mature adults and move on. People come into your life for a reason, season or a lifetime. I wish it didn't have to be this way, it makes me sad but that is life.

I did what I felt was right by filing a police report and having my attorneys handling the situation. I am an entrepreneur and a mature adult. Who fights at this age? I was taught to let the authorities handle criminals. Having graduated with a degree in Political Science and a concentration in Pre-Law, I am fully aware of my legal rights and the justice system. If you put your hands on someone, there will be repercussions. End of story...

For the record, I have changed. I am striving to be an independent woman and I am building a future for myself. I have zero time or tolerance for BS. I am not sitting around waiting for a man to take care of me. Lucid is 100% mine; I built it from the ground up. No licensing deal or I am a paid spokes model. I don't sit around and knock what my cast mates are trying to do business wise. Be a leader and not a follower, no one was thinking about the cosmetic industry until way after Lucid. At the end of the day, I find it all unfortunate that I am the constant topic when it comes to hate and no one can uplift one another. Fame has never been a weakness of mine but by watching this show I can't say the same for all the ladies. I just hope everyone can recognize

what is really important in this life because Basketball Wives will not always be the HOT thing... Then what???

Special thank you to my legal team, Corey Boddie, Sanford Rubenstein and Sabrina Puglisi also my publicist, Elizabeth Traub and my manager, Deanna Morales. And thank you to all my family and friends who have been so supportive of me during all this craziness. I cannot forget my loyal viewers, much love.

“Many walk in and out of our lives, but only those who leave footprints really matter.”- Unknown

Peace and blessings,

JW

Thoughts?

<http://theybf.com/2012/04/24/basketball-wife-jennifer-williams-defends-her-decision-to-slap-back-with-a-lawsuit>

Date: 4/25/2012

Headline: The BOYCOTT Of Evelyn Lozada & The "Basketball Wives" Is ON!

Post: Folks are absolutely fed up with the utter foolery that is VH1's "Basketball Wives." It only took 4 seasons for that to happen. Yet and still, a petition has popped up to boycott cast member Evelyn Lozada's new spinoff show....and Star Jones is gathering up support of powerful women to get the show and its often embarrassing antics stopped.

Deets inside...

Evelyn and her assistant Nia Crooks ganging up on co-star Jennifer Williams this season seems to have been the straw that broke the slaphappy camel's back. Because folks are more up in arms than ever at the antics of the grown women on this show. From jumping on tables just to get a lick in on another female to throwing glass in the face of another to may-jah curse-your-ass-out arguments, it's a lot going on "Basketball Wives" these days.

An excerpt from an online petition that is now circulating (check it out in full [HERE](#)) reads:

“Evelyn Lozada is a bully. The violence on ‘Basketball Wives’ is horrible and disgraceful. This is not a hate petition against Eveyln Lozada. We simply will not support violence. It hurts to see violence amongst women on television for entertainment purposes. It is not OK for women to hit each other on TV.

Just about every altercation and argument on the show has involved Evelyn in some way, shape or form. From the yelling match on the season 4 premier against her former bestie, Jen, to the table climbing and hair pulling in the last couple of episodes, the woman has a problem for reals."

Ha! The petition also asks viewers to call and write Viacom in order to stop the release of "Ev & Ocho," Evelyn's spinoff show with fiance Chad OchoCinco.

<http://theybf.com/2012/04/25/the-boycott-of-evelyn-lozada-the-basketball-wives-is-on>

Date: 4/27/2012

Headline: SERIOUSLY? Shaunie O'Neal ADMITS Evelyn Lozada and Tami Roman Are BULLIES On "Basketball Wives"

Post: "Executive Producer" Shaunie O'Neal is speaking out about what's been happening on "Basketball Wives" lately and she admits that some of the ladies on the show can be "bullies." Shocker. Get the deets inside.....

During a chat with Hip Hollywood, Shaunie O'Neal confirmed what we already know....Evelyn Lozada is a bully. But instead of simply throwing Evelyn under the bus, Shaunie cleaned it up adding that Evelyn is such a "strong" personality that when she is put up against someone like Jennifer, she could seem a bit overwhelming.

As for Tami Roman, Shaunie compared her to Evelyn and said she is a sweetheart. But she added that you might not want to cross her.

But what she left out was if she thinks bullies have the right to lay hands on others. Hmmmm.....

Shaunie is going to have to come a little better than that as I'm sure Star Jones and the rest of the ladies gearing up for a boycott aren't going to buy into the whole "strong personality" thing.

At this point, it simply looks like Shaunie is trying to save face and protect her brand. We all know she doesn't have any real creative control over what the show airs, yet she still continues to defend what is broadcast. She released a statement recently saying,

"I'm extremely happy that Basketball Wives continues to have another successful fourth season. As the ratings have been through the roof since our season opener, fans continue to tune into the lives of Evelyn, Tami, Jennifer, Royce, Suzie and myself. As there is always controversy and indifference projected on the show, because we are all individual personalities, I always hope that people will find that as much as you may agree or disagree with the opinions, the behavior, [and] even our different taste in shoes, you are taking a look inside the lives of four complete different women. I will never say I agree with some of the behavior between my girlfriends on the show, but if we were to edit certain things out the show would be scripted and not reality.

As a woman of color with kids, I am very aware of myself, but I also have to be aware that my choices cannot be the same for everyone on the show and I have to respect that. I hope the fans feel they see a balance and know we have always been real with our stories, even though it may not always be a positive portrayal of adult women but real women nonetheless. I look forward to developing other media platforms in the future and hope that fans will continue to support."

Alrighty.

<http://theybf.com/2012/04/27/seriously-shaunie-oneal-admits-there-is-bullying-on-bbw>

Date: 5/8/2012

Headline: Sponsors Start To Pull Out Of "Basketball Wives" & "Ev & Ocho" + Royce Goes IN on Tami For Tahiti Episode

Post: Oh those "Basketball Wives." Not only have sponsors started to take heed to the petition to get the show (and Evelyn Lozada's spinoff) off the air, but Royce Reed is taking co-star Tami Roman to task about her actions on last night's episode surrounding the Tahiti trip foolery.

Check it inside...

Maybe it's for the best Royce opted out of the Tahiti trip from hell that aired last night. From the time the cast landed in Tahiti, there was tension and drama between Kesha and Tami. All because Kesha was coughing and "not covering her mouth." At least that's what Tami said. Kesha felt bullied, as always, and Tami defended her own actions because she was offended by the apparent rudeness of the coughing. Sigh.

Royce took to her VH1 blog today to give her 2 cents about the whole episode...and she let Tami (and everybody else except for Kesha) have it. No surprise there. Here's the excerpts:

I was honestly just hoping Kesha didn't say her skin hurt. Tami seemed as though she was trying to find something to get upset about and she chose a cough. From the way the girls were seated in the car, to laughing and making faces behind Kesha's back if you take a screen capture from that scene and mine from the van in Spain, it's almost identical.

I'm not sure what happened to Tami, but this isn't the woman I've gotten to know. To see these women gang up on someone who has done nothing to them is embarrassing. I say ganging up because NO ONE did anything to stop it. If you don't say anything you then become part of the problem. Who cares if Kesha was scared to get in the ocean with sharks and stingrays, I don't believe I saw any of your asses in a swimsuit jumping in the water either. How are you going to call someone else scary when at least they put on the attire instead of saying "Oh Hell NO" in confessionals????

I applaud Suzie and Kesha for appreciating what Tahiti had to offer and attempting to stay drama free. I find it amazing when alcohol is used as liquid courage and an excuse to turn into the

HULK. Most times I drink, I get emotional, horny, and just want to dance.....side-eye: lol. But if you know that drinks cause you to have a temper, why indulge just because everyone else is? The whole scene with Tami and Kesha I shook my head. At some point you have to look at yourself and say "Damn, that wasn't a good look. I need to change the way I speak to people and handle things because I look crazy." If you don't see it, your "so-called" friends have and should tell you the same. Tami, if Evelyn and Shaunie found no problem with Kesha's questions, it wasn't up to you to find one. Tami, if you HEARD Kesha said all these things about you, why not call out the person who told you so you can get all three parties together.

I'm sure THAT PERSON was probably sitting at that table. I have an idea of two people who could've said it. One is known to talk a lot, and the other is a snake in the grass. If you're going based off the footage that was shown, Kesha said "I seriously had to just NOT go off...and honestly, like, I could've came at Tami and said whatever I wanted to but there's nothing I could've said that would've made her look worse than she was making herself look...Tami is like acting a fool" ...She never said she wanted to, so why are you asking her to now??? The smirking on the side by Evelyn and Shaunie is a DAMN SHAME. Grown as women talking about a damn position! Grown ass women wanting to fight with no repercussions! I HEARD about what happened in Tahiti but seeing it now is an embarrassment and the sh!t is PISSING ME OFF!!!! GROWN ASS AFRICAN AMERICAN WOMEN feeding into the stereotype already placed on us...plus two!!!!!!!!

Meanwhile, (C.B. Fleet Company) Summer's Eve feminine products have reportedly pulled out of both BBW and the upcoming "Ev & Ocho." And Change.org is set to announce a second sponsor who pulled out next week. Is the petition and boycott working?

Date: 5/11/2012

Headline: TV FAB: Is Tami Roman LEAVING "Basketball Wives?"

Post: Could "BBW" firestarter Tami Roman be calling it quits? In a recent tweet, it alluded to her possibly making a move to greener, safer pastures. Read the tweet inside.

After the recent boycott and petition, Tami Roman might be getting out of "BBW" while the getting is good. Although NOTHING has been said officially, Tami had an interesting exchange with a Twitter "fan" recently.

The fan/follower tweeted,

I hope on the next season of basketball they bring another hoodrat bitch to the show that's not gonna back down from @TamiRoman bully ass

So what did the "bully" say in response? Tami tweeted,

@CallMeCASH_ I actually hope they do well next season-I wish all the BBW's the best of luck.

Then another follower asked, @TamiRoman @CallMeCASH_ you aren't doin the show anymore, why? I hope not cause of the bad feedback.

She didn't respond to the last tweet so one has to wonder if she was wishing the "BBW" stars luck because she won't be around? Time will tell.....

<http://theybf.com/2012/05/11/tv-fab-is-tami-roman-leaving-basketball-wives>

Date: 6/4/2012

Headline: "Basketball Wives" Castmembers Get THE BOOT: Jennifer Williams, Royce Reed & Kesha Nichols AXED

Post: And so it continues. When Shaunie O'Neal said a few days ago that 3 castmembers needed to be let go in order for the show to sustain a more positive vibe--it seems what she really meant was she wanted to get rid of those who weren't causing enough drama.

Deets inside on the three chicks that just got the axe inside...

According to reports, newbie Kesha Nichols, Royce Reed & Jennifer Williams, have all received their walking papers.

Reasons being? Supposedly, Shaunie wanted to get rid of the dead weight. I guess in this case dead weight equates non controversial. We pretty much saw it coming with Jen. Since she introduced lawsuits into the mix and we all saw where that got former castmate Meeka Claxton.

As for Kesha, she simply didn't bring enough to the table for viewers to care apparently. And the rest of the cast often refused to tape with Royce, and the fact she still is barred from saying her baby's daddy Dwight Howard's name on the show, it was reportedly becoming a problem.

But we do find it interesting that Shaunie claimed to be trying extremely hard to push the show in a more positive direction for next season, yet she keeps the very people who push the show in the negative direction. I'm not a "BBW" expert or anything as I can barely get through watching any episode, but it just seems there are far more 'negative' people on this show than harmless Kesha and arguably annoying Royce.

If Shaunie just wanted to keep controversy, then no need to lie about it otherwise. Just sayin'.

Their replacements should be interesting. But with certain folks still in the mix--including instigating ass Suzy--we're expecting the same sh*t, different cast. VH1 has yet to confirm the three firings.

<http://theybf.com/2012/06/14/basketball-wives-castmembers-get-the-boot-jennifer-williams-royce-reed-kesha-nichols-axed>

Date: 6/12/2012

Headline: RECAP: Jennifer Williams & Evelyn Lozada HUG IT OUT During Part 2 Of "Basketball Wives" Reunion Special

Post: It was a shocking ending to season four of "BBW" as frenemies Jennifer Williams and Evelyn Lozada shared a tearful embrace after admitting during a polygraph test that they missed each other's friendship. The test also revealed that Jennifer is indeed jealous of Evelyn's engagement and upcoming wedding to Chad Ochocino. But is it a healthy jealousy that many girlfriends share that never crosses into the zone their fights did? Watch Jen and Ev make amends here:

The special also covered the relationships of Evelyn and Chad as well as Royce Reed and Dezmon Briscoe. While Evelyn discussed Chad's wacky wedding suggestions like walking down the aisle AFTER her, Royce talked about her relationship with Dezmon Briscoe. At the time of the taping in May, Royce said she and Dez were fine and she was not ready to end their romance. But earlier this week, Royce tweeted that the romance is indeed over. She said,

“I wish @Dezbriscoe89 the best but after much thought I found it 2 be n my best interest 2 walk away & focus on my career & my munchkin. Many minds have inquired about whether I’m still with Dezmon Briscoe. Let it be clear that we are not together. I’m happy and super focused!”

Hopefull she stops discussing her relationships all together.

Watch Royce and Ev discuss relationships below:

Also, Shaunie O'Neal teared up while discussing how she felt guilty and partly responsible for all of the fighting and negativity portrayed this season. She said there will be a season 5 and there will be more positive aspects of their lives shown. Heard it all before.

<http://theybf.com/2012/06/12/tv-fab-jennifer-williams-evelyn-lozada-hug-it-out-during-bbw-reunion-special-part-2>

Date: 12/13/2012

Headline: Evelyn Parties It Up With The "Basketball Wives" For Her Birthday & PETA UNVEIL

Post: Evelyn Lozada is still celebrating her big PETA campaign unveil. And last night, at the Supper Club in L.A., Evelyn kept the party going with her "Basketball Wives" co-stars. Pics and deets inside...

After unveiling her "I'd Rather Go Naked" campaign earlier this week with PETA, Evelyn's been partying it up, especially since the unveil coincided with her 37th birthday.

The fab chick had some fun with her co-stars Shaunie O'Neal and newbie Tasha Marbury at the party--which had topless women being lowered from ceilings who were bringing drinks to the crowd.

Appendix D: Bossip's Blogs on Real Housewives of Atlanta

Date: 4/5/2012

Headline: True Or False: Did Sheree Whitfield Get Fired From Real Housewives Of Atlanta??? -

Post: "Who gon' check me boo!"... how about Bravo? Sheree Whitfield's days as a Real Housewife of Atlanta are numbered, and she's been told exactly how many days she has left on the hit reality show... ZERO! Sheree was flown out to NYC and that's when Bravo broke the news that they would not be renewing her contract for next season. This news is surprising considering Sheree has been a part of the cast from the very beginning and her storyline isn't exactly drama-free. Remember that fight in South Africa? Beyond that, we have seen a softer side of Sheree this season. She seems to be more focused on being a mother, getting child support from her ex-husband and building that Chateau that probably won't see the light of day if this rumor is true. Plus, we all know what happened to previous cast members who didn't keep the drama going (moment of silence for DeShawn Snow and Lisa Wu-Hartwell). DAYUM! Sucks to be you. This will give her time to focus on her She by Sheree fashions and collecting them non-existent racks on racks on racks from her ex-hubby Bob Whitfield.

<http://bossip.com/568733/true-or-false-did-sheree-whitfield-get-fired-from-real-housewives-of-atlanta/#sthash.Z6Cw5JI7.dpuf>

Date: 4/14/2012

Headline: Jesus Take The Weaves: Real Housewives Of Atlanta Take Ratchetness To New Levels For Reunion Show

Post: We didn't think they paid these broads enough to embarrass themselves THIS Much on TV According to RadarOnline reports: The Real Housewives of Atlanta reunion airs this Sunday and fireworks are going to go off! The feisty women get together for an explosive end of season sit down with host Andy Cohen and if the trailer is anything to go by it's going to be messy. Nene Leakes, Kandi Burruss, Sheree Whitfield, Kim Zolciak, Cynthia Bailey, Marlo Hampton and Phaedra Parks divide into the "talls" and the "smalls" for an epic battle where the gloves are totally off. Everything from Nene's son's arrest to her broken friendship with Kim is discussed leading to a nasty fight between the women where nothing is off limits. And it appears that even in their sub-groups, the Southern socialites turn against each other with Phaedra and Sheree going at it. Newcomer Marlo is even seen calling one of the Housewives a "whore" and the women get personal about looks with Sheree telling Nene to "fix her face." You can watch the

explosive Real Housewives of Atlanta Reunion Part 1 on Bravo, Sunday April 15 at 9/8c. SMH. These hoes are an embarrassment!

<http://bossip.com/572674/real-housewives-of-atlanta-have-huge-fight-at-reunion30346/#sthash.6XLyRPB5.dpuf>

Date: 5/25/2012

Headline: Real Housewives Of Atlanta's Phaedra Parks Suing VIBE Magazine For \$30 Million

Post: Aww damn. Phaedra Parks, of Real Housewives Of Atlanta infamy, is suing VIBE Magazine for defamation. Parks' beef stems from a story Vibe.com ran a three-part story on author Angela Stanton, whose book, Lies of a Real Housewife: Tell the Truth and Shame the Devil..., states that Parks, despite being an attorney, was up to all types of illegal activity including check fraud and racketeering, allegedly.

Ironically, the latest of issue of VIBE features Real Housewives of Atlanta co-star Kandi Burress on its cover. Watch a clip of Stanton dropping dime below. Read the rest of the story over at The Urban Daily.

<http://bossip.com/590183/real-housewives-of-atlantas-phaedra-parks-suing-vibe-magazine-for-30-million/>

Date: 6/18/2012

Headline: Seen On The Scene: "Real Housewives Of Atlanta" Talls Nene Leakes, Marlo Hampton And Cynthia Bailey At Grand Hustle/Grey Goose Dinner

Post: Looks like the "Talls" are still hanging tough! "Real Housewives Of Atlanta" stars Nene Leakes, Cynthia Bailey and Marlo Hampton were spotted with "Love & Hip-Hop" producer Mona Scott Friday for a special dinner hosted by Def Jam exec Bu Thiam and Grand Hustle founder Jason Geter sponsored by Grey Goose. The event was held at Atlanta's Mandarin Oriental Hotel. Attendees were treated to a special performance by new Grand Hustle artist Michelle'l.

<http://bossip.com/600273/seen-on-the-scene-real-housewives-of-atlanta-talls-nene-leakes-marlo-hampton-and-cynthia-bailey-at-grand-hustlegrey-goose-dinner/#sthash.ifr6jcAE.dpuf>

Date: 7/26/2012

Headline: Guess Which "Real Housewives Of Atlanta" Star Is Headed For Divorce Court Next?

Post: Which “Real Housewives Of Atlanta” couple is headed for divorce court? We probably would have guessed Cynthia and Peter too... but it turns out it’s trouble in paradise for Phaedra Parks and her ex-con hubster Apollo! Real Housewives of Atlanta star Phaedra Parks is thinking about getting a divorce from her husband Apollo! Phaedra was even recently seen at Light and Salvation Outreach Ministries Church this past Sunday ringless! A source close to the couple tell AllAboutTRH EXCLUSIVELY, “The producers from RHOA are trying to snoop and shoot certain scenes of them arguing, but Apollo is just so aggressive he has started to refuse to partake in any filming. Apollo has even started threatening to take their son Ayden and leave.”The source adds, “Phaedra is amazing with her son Ayden and that’s her main focus throughout all of this. Phaedra showed up to Church Sunday with Ayden, without a ring and without Apollo!”No ring on at church without the hubby doesn’t seem that big of a deal to us, but we’ve been hearing rumors for some time that Apollo has more than a wandering eye and that other parts of him have been wandering as well so we can’t say we’re completely surprised. All we know is he better get lawyered up cuz everybody knows Phaedra ain’t about no play play when it comes to court.

<http://bossip.com/618269/guess-which-real-housewives-of-atlanta-star-is-headed-for-divorce-court-next/#sthash.57TPfEbo.dpuf>

Date: 8/31/2012

Headline: Meet The Newest Additions To “Real Housewives Of Atlanta”... And One Of Them Is Actually A Real Wife!

Post: Word on the street is this woman, Porsha Stewart is expected to be a big draw for the Bravo show. The rumor has been out for a few weeks now that Porsha Stewart is the new cast member of the Real Housewives of Atlanta. While there’s still no confirmation from Bravo, Porsha has been seen on a few red carpets for the past couple of weeks.

You know she’s somebody when Fifi is hanging out with her! From what we’ve heard Porsha is an upstanding young lady, the daughter of Civil Rights leader and philanthropist Hosea Williams (Hosea Feeds The Hungry) is married to former STEELER (*waves Terrible Towel) Kordell Stewart and has a budding musical career. Porsha has been seen working in Stankonia studios (hmmm working with Outkast???) and shopping at Gregory’s (\$\$\$ shoes!) on the daily with and without her hubby. Porsha happens to be the only one out of the ladies that is married AND born and raised in Atlanta... so maybe Bravo finally got it right? Guess we’ll have to see. The singing thing might mean some potential conflicts with Kandi, but we’ve seen the two exchanging convo on Twitter. She’s also posted photos with Phaedra:

<http://bossip.com/636953/meet-the-newest-additions-to-real-housewives-of-atlanta-and-one-of-them-is-actually-a-real-wife/#sthash.GnxdSKSE.dpuf>

Date: 9/21/2012

Headline: Reality TV: Bravo Unveils The New Cast Of “Real Housewives Of Atlanta” ... Did Kim Get Dropped?

Post: Plus Nene Leakes is all up in the new VOGUE. Owwww! First of all, allow us a moment to accept our props for spilling the tea on the new “Housewives” last month. Via BravoTV: New ventures, sizzling romance, a whole lotta donkey booty, and two new Housewives arrive to turn up the heat in Hotlanta. Season 5 of The Real Housewives of Atlanta follows NeNe as she embarks on a new adventure as a rising star in Hollywood. In the love department, NeNe flirts with the idea of rekindling a romance with her ex, Gregg, meanwhile, new love is in the air for Kandi who has recently found herself a man. Focused on their expanding businesses, Cynthia dabbles into the world of pageants and Phaedra decides to create a fitness video all about achieving that signature “donkey booty.” Our recently married Housewife Kim is also busy expanding her family, but manages to make it out for the ladies’ events — even ones where NeNe is the guest of honor. Will these two ever make up or will she further distance herself from the group in favor of her family and man? New Housewives Kenya and Porsha also join the mix and waste very little time stirring things up among this group of southern ladies. The series delves into the lives of six sassy women from Atlanta’s social elite. Juggling families, careers, and jam-packed social calendars, the Real Housewives live their triumphs and frustrations out loud. Atlanta continues to be a character in itself as one of the hottest entertainment hubs in America. These driven and ambitious women prove that they’re not just “housewives,” but entrepreneurs, doting mothers, and feisty southern women. Sounds like an interesting season is ahead of us. Wonder how Kim Zolciak feels about being demoted to occasional appearances. Do y’all think the “white folks” will still tune in to see an all-black cast? Is Bravo taking a big risk? Hit the flip for cast bios on all the ladies and Nene’s shot from Vogue!

<http://bossip.com/650632/reality-tv-bravo-unveils-the-new-cast-of-real-housewives-of-atlanta-did-kim-get-dropped/#sthash.NaKludjU.dpuf>

Date: 11/5/2012

Headline: Real Housewives Of Atlanta Star Kenya Moore Says Cynthia Bailey Has No Business Still Modeling, “Retire Your Dusty Old Wigs And Worn Out Makeup!”

Post: On the season premiere of “Real Housewives of Atlanta,” newest housewife Kenya Moore let it be known she is all about that shade life. During a modeling event hosted by Cynthia Bailey the former Miss USA shows that is STILL the baddest ex-model banger in these streets. Via Bravo: If you don’t know, you better ask somebody. I’m also that girl whose been on the covers of and modeled for over 30 magazines from Essence to Real Health to Maxim magazine. In fact, the very audition she held for the Jet Magazine Beauty of the Week, I was chosen as a Jet Beauty. I also have a Jet Magazine cover. Do you have a Jet Magazine cover, Cynthia? However, models usually retire around 30-years-old. Even though Cynthia is a beautiful woman, at 45, maybe Cynthia should retire her dusty old wigs and worn out makeup brushes that are just as worn out as her welcome mat from the modeling industry. The utter shade of it all! But Ms.Moore ain’t done yet...Ms. Bailey also takes a shot at me by saying she “wouldn’t be caught dead doing some of the magazines I’ve done.” Well guess what, Cynthia, if you were on the cover of any of the men’s magazines I’ve appeared on the cover of, we’d all die, because we would be bored into a slow and painful death just by looking at you. In fact, I’m bored now just

by thinking about it. Annnnnnnnnnd BOOM goes the dynamite! Looks like it might a case of the Talls vs. Talls on this season of RHOA. What do you think of Kenya and Cynthia's battle of the ex-model banger beef??

<http://bossip.com/674896/shots-fired-real-housewives-atlanta-star-kenya-moore-says-cynthia-bailey-has-no-business-still-modeling-retire-your-dusty-old-wigs-and-worn-out-makeup/#sthash.o1MHR3w.dpuf>

Date: 11/9/2012

Headline: Nene Leakes "Real Housewives Of Atlanta Is So Popular Because We're Brown!" [Video] - See more at:

<http://bossip.com/677967/nene-leakes-real-housewives-of-atlanta-is-so-popular-because-were-brown-video/#sthash.KA8ooTEV.dpuf>

Post: [Embedded Video]

Date: 11/19/2012

Headline: Real Housewives Of Atlanta Star NeNe Leakes Says Geritol Gregg's Dirty Dog Ways Led To Their Messy ~~Fake~~ Divorce

Post: If your man thinks the grass is greener on the other side, than let him wander — this according to reality star turned marriage counselor NeNe Leakes! Via RadarOnline: The Real Housewives of Atlanta star and her ex-husband, Gregg, are opening up to the December issue of Ebony magazine about why they got divorced after 15 years of marriage and hint that they will be heading to the altar once again in the not too distant future, and RadarOnline.com has the details. Leakes maintains that she had nothing to do with the demise of their marriage and that it was all on the shoulders of her wayward husband. "It hurt me to file for divorce, but I had to see it through. I let him know you're going to be my husband and you're not going to be somebody else's anything, but if you plan to be somebody else's anything, then we can't be together," Leakes reveals. "Gregg needed to feel what it was like without me. I wanted to let him see if the grass was really greener on the other side. He brought his a** back, because the grass is very brown over there. "Not only have we divorced, but we are back together as a couple. This is our new normal. I'm telling you, TV is a beast. It will make you do s**t you never thought you'd do." Gregg also chimes in on the reason behind their split. "To expose oneself is the beginning of healing and the beginning of forgiveness. I have never blamed her for anything except being outstanding," he explains. "If I didn't blame her [for the relationship's demise], I must have had shortcomings. Whatever it was, I refused to have my family become another statistic. I fought to get my family back, and that's what I did with the help of my Lord and Savior Jesus Christ." And while having all of their dirty laundry aired on national television may seem like a bad thing, he believes that it actually helped other people going through similar situations. "What we went through in exposing our situation had the ultimate benefit. It's about helping someone else learn from what we went through," he says. When asked if he was planning on putting a big ring back

on his ex-wife's finger, Gregg played coy and encouraged people to find out by watching this season's Real Housewives of Atlanta. "Stay tuned," he says. "How do you know I haven't already?" The only thing greener on her side is the money. Gregg might be old as hell but he's no dummy.

<http://bossip.com/683146/real-housewives-of-atlanta-star-nene-leakes-says-geritol-greggs-dirty-dog-ways-led-to-their-messy-fake-divorce/#sthash.lurANYIw.dpuf>

Date: 11/18/2012

Headline: Put On Blast: Real Housewives Of Atlanta Star Kenya Moore Exposed As Gold-Digging Mean Girl Bully By Highschool Friend

Post: In a recent interview Real Housewives of Atlanta's Kenya Moore said bad editing was the reasoning behind her being portrayed as a crazy coochie crack hating freak. But, according to an old friend of Kenya's her mean girl days go all the way back to high school... Via Rhymes With Snitch: According to the friend, who reached out to RWS, Kenya was part of a mean girl clique at Cass Tech high school who were known for smoking, drinking and only dating older guys with money. The source claims Kenya's gold digger status in high school became legendary after one of her older boyfriends, a suspected street pharmaceutical rep, ferried Kenya and her mean girl clique from downtown Detroit to Metro beach on his yacht. Don't let the pretty face fool you, the ex-Ms.USA has always been bout that ain't isht life.

<http://bossip.com/682471/put-on-blast-real-housewives-of-atlanta-star-kenya-moore-exposed-as-gold-digging-mean-girl-bully-by-highschool-friend/#sthash.uY0uG607.dpuf>

Date: 11/21/2012

Headline: Real Housewives Of Atlanta Star Kenya Moore Puts Porsha Stewart On Blast "She's A Tacky Gold-Digger Who Ruined Her Grandfather's Legacy!"

Post: Pot meet kettle? Kenya Moore Puts Porsha Stewart On Blast On the latest episode of RHOA, Porsha Stewart invited fellow housewife Kenya Moore to attend her charity function. But nothing was charitable about their interaction. Kenya felt insulted by Porsha first by her asking her a lot of personal questions at their initial lunch and then by "disrespecting" her crown. Kenya was mad and you don't want to see crazy Kenya when she's mad... Via Bravo Blogs: LUNCH FROM HELL I didn't know what was more offensive at that awkward lunch; the barrage of inappropriate personal questions from a complete stranger, the lack of sensitivity from a self-centered, immature, shallow little girl of 31, or the poor representation of a well-respected Atlanta charity. She even manages to insult NeNe, Phaedra, and Kandi by saying, "They just show up to take pictures and leave!" I was uncomfortable but nonetheless, still agreed to attend what I thought was a respectable charity event. DONATE TO ME Why would anyone stand in front of a crowd under the pretense of charity wearing a \$4,200 dress and receive personal gifts of a \$4,000 Chanel handbag and have the audacity to ask people to donate money? This tacky, deplorable spectacle literally made my stomach turn, and I no longer desired to remain a party to

this and wanted to leave immediately. Once the host took the microphone and cavalierly announced my hard earned title as “Miss America,” AND once corrected rolled her eyes, I was officially disrespected and done. Disturbingly, the host prides herself on being a glorified gold digger and self-proclaimed “princess.” She not only manages to single handedly disgrace her grandfather’s charity (The Hosea Williams Foundation), tarnish HIS legacy in one fell swoop, and spit in the face of all the people who are struggling in this RECESSION and in need of food, shelter, and immediate relief. After witnessing this distasteful spectacle, I’m sure there are many people that would never want to support such a charity if this is their representative. You can fix a lot of things, but you cannot fix stupidity. WHAT’S IN A NAME? Many people have confused my title and it doesn’t offend me. However, in this instance, the blatant disrespect and disregard for my time and accomplishments that night did not fall to the wayside. When your claim to fame rests on the laurels of someone else’s achievements, you will never understand what it is like to earn or be anything great in life, sadly limited to a wife of... or granddaughter of... embarrassment of... The truth is, I am a part of history and proud of that FACT. The year matters not. Long after I’m gone, my title will remain. DAYUM DAYUM DAYUM! Kenya is handing out reality checks left and right this season. Do you think she is right? Are you #TeamPorsha or #TeamKenya??

<http://bossip.com/683855/real-housewives-of-atlanta-star-kenya-moore-puts-porsha-stewart-on-blast-shes-a-tacky-gold-digger-that-ruined-her-grandfathers-legacy/#sthash.mknD5t8j.dpuf>

Date: 11/25/2012

Headline: Put On Blast: NeNe Leakes Calls Kim Zolciak A Racist Azz Liar And Claims She Got Fired From “Real Housewives Of Atlanta

Post: NeNe vs. Kim Round 59045904349353988 NeNe Leakes And Kim Zolciak Fight On Twitter Via RadarOnline: She may have left The Real Housewives of Atlanta but that doesn’t mean the bitter feud between NeNe Leakes and Kim Zolciak has ended. The former friends took to Twitter this weekend to lob comments at each other, RadarOnline.com is exclusively reporting. The recent round of catty remarks stem from Zolciak’s decision to leave the reality TV series, walking off mid-season in an episode that airs on December 2. As RadarOnline.com previously reported, the mom-of-four explained why she left, saying “I was eight months pregnant and there was so much drama, I just had to walk.” But on Friday Leakes took to Twitter to dispute that account. NeNe wrote: “It’s so funny how this chick wants people 2 think she quit the show! The producers no longer wanted 2 work wit [sic] u! Good bye wit the lies. “None of the girls or producers wanted 2 work wit her! Saving face like all the other ex housewives! U were FIRED! Good bye.” Zolciak quickly took to her Twitter page to respond, saying: “I definitely was NOT fired from RHOA. I can guarantee u that!!!” She went on to say: “You are so mad u can’t stand it & hold your anger in, u are suppose [sic] to have all this stuff going on but ur staying tuned into me #iloveit.” Zolciak also made reference to her new Bravo spin-off series, which debuts in the spring. She wrote: “My spinoff last year was a 1 time thing so this spinoff is brand new! Bye hater!!!!” She later added: “Makes no sense to get fired and get a promotion! #staytunedhater.” Kim and NeNe’s feud was the topic of conversation when Leakes appeared on The View on Friday. Asked about Zolciak, the 44-year-old again accused her former

friend of racism and said they “obviously” won’t be reconciling. Wait... 44? Didn’t Kim say she was 30 something? These two will never be friends again, unless Bravo gives them checks to do so. Are you #TeamKim or #TeamNeNe?

<http://bossip.com/685261/put-on-blast-nene-leakes-calls-kim-zolciak-a-racist-azz-liar-and-claims-she-got-fired-from-real-housewives-of-atlanta/#sthash.ybOavaJ8.dpuf>

Date: 11/27/2012

Headline: Real Housewives Of Atlanta Star Phaedra Parks Blames Cynthia Shade-Throwing “Butt-Dial” Disaster On NeNe Leakes

Post: On the latest episode of Real Housewives of Atlanta, Cynthia Bailey confronted Phaedra Parks about an overheard voice-mail saying she didn’t give a f**k if she attended her son Ayden’s second birthday party or not. Phaedra put on her designer lawyer hat and found someone else to blame: NeNe Leakes. Via Bravo Blog: “For reasons unbeknownst to me, NeNe brings to Cynthia’s attention a conversation via supposed butt dial regarding Cynthia attending my son Ayden’s birthday party.” “The conversation occurred during the stressful time of organizing the event and was so trivial that I didn’t even remember it. In the sound bite of the conversation I basically said I didn’t care if Cynthia attended Ayden’s birthday party after repeatedly being badgered about the guest list. I never said anything malicious or derogatory about Cynthia, and it was not my intention to insinuate that she is insignificant. The point of my comment was to communicate that Cynthia’s attendance to Ayden’s second birthday party was not essential, as Cynthia is my peer, not Ayden’s. Ayden’s celebration was not about MY friends, but about his enjoyment with HIS family and friends.” “Once again, it’s always sad when people choose to create drama when there truly is none. While I have already apologized to Cynthia for any misunderstandings, real and assumed, I still stand by my statement that I did not care whether or not she attended Ayden’s party. If it were my party, I would have felt different, but Ayden is my son and he was the star and main focus of the party. Hopefully, Cynthia has accepted my apology, as I do value our relationship.” “Phaedra, you don’t have to lie to kick it. We know that lavish party at the GA Aquarium was not for your son. Ayden was barely awake for most of it. Do you think Phaedra really lied about the butt dial voice-mail?”

<http://bossip.com/686091/real-housewives-of-atlanta-star-phaedra-parks-blames-cynthia-shade-throwing-butt-dial-disaster-on-nene-leakes/#sthash.PaLilYP2.dpuf>

Date: 12/4/2012

Headline: Real Housewives Of Atlanta Star Kenya Moore Denies Getting Chopped Down By Phaedra’s Husband Apollo But Calls Him “Fine As Hell!”

Post: On last night’s episode of Real Housewives of Atlanta, crazy Kenya Moore attention slored her way into cast-mate’s Phaedra Park’s hubby’s heart. Kenya flirted all night with Apollo right in front of Phaedra and her own date Walter. Although, the potential homewreckin’ ho raised a

couple eyebrows during the incident; she claims it was all innocent...Via Bravo Blogs: “I’m obviously meeting with Apollo and Phaedra to discuss working on a workout video. I’m a very honest and vocal person and don’t consider complimenting Apollo on his physique flirting and certainly meant no harm or disrespect. Naturally, fitness and physique play a role in our potential upcoming venture. All present knew that it was not flirting. Phaedra had no issues with my compliments or jokes nor did my guy. And who flirts with their mate present if they were up to no good? Really, who does that? It was lighthearted and harmless people. It is still my opinion that Apollo is fine and Phaedra is a lucky woman but that is Phaedra’s husband. And I’m not interested in her husband or anyone else’s husband. Enough said. Do you believe Kenya’s intentions were pure or was she trying to seduce Apollo with her bad skin and Ms. USA crown? -

<http://bossip.com/690078/real-housewives-of-atlanta-star-kenya-moore-denies-getting-chopped-down-by-phaedras-husband-apollo-but-calls-him-fine-as-hell/#sthash.LdBbs922.dpuf>

Appendix E: Bossip’s Blogs on Love & Hip Hop

Date: 1/19/2012

Headline: Eric Mena (Love And Hip-Hop) Gets Very Emotional Explaining Kimbella Fight And Brawl In The Street With Boyfriend

Post: The above, is the fight with Erica and her baby daddy, Raul Conde, from Terror Squad... where Erica did an MMA kick to the guys face.

[Embedded Video]

<http://bossip.com/528626/erica-mena-love-hip-hop-gets-very-emotional-explaining-kimbella-fight-and-brawl-in-street-with-boyfriend-video69691/#sthash.4xMi3mmX.dpuf>

Date: 1/24/2012

Headline: Were You Watching? “Love And Hip-Hop” Finale Leaves Yandy Without A Job, Kimbella And Emily Without A Man And Olivia Without A Deal!

Post: RESPECT THE BUMP!!! That should have been the theme for this season of “Love and Hip-Hop”. Considering that one of the first episodes revealed that Kimbella likely slept with Emily B.’s man Fab while she was knocked up, did it seem like karma when she informed her parents she was toting a second gut full of Juelz — with him nowhere in sight?

It’s a great theme since there now seem to be bumps galore amongst the ladies. Rumor has it that Yandy is holding a gut full of Dipset affiliate ManDC (@deone129 on Twitter) and although she’s denied it — our sources say they’ve seen her and she’s definitely holding... Hopefully he’s bringing in some big checks managing Vado because last night’s episode made it clear that Yandy is no longer employed by Jim Jones... Speaking of which, what did you think of his

moms' "Psychotic" performance? Her one-time bump – baby Jimmy may be more successful than her now but for how long? After all Nancy has a single on iTunes and her own show in the works. She's doing better than Olivia, riiiiight? The finale also saw Olivia standing her ground, turning down a sh**ty deal, even if it means she'll have to give up her expensive shoe habit to finance her career and going head to head with Funkmaster Flex. Clap it up for her?

<http://bossip.com/530852/were-you-watching-love-and-hip-hop-finale-leaves-yandy-without-a-job-kimbella-and-emily-without-a-man-and-olivia-without-a-deal30346/#sthash.H6hKjDyv.dpuf>

Date: 2/22/2012

Headline: Shots Fired: Olivia Of Love & Hip Hop Talks Maino, Yandy, And Chrissy Lampkin [Video]

Post: Didn't they JUST get back together? Fab and his Love & Hip-Hop reality star girlfriend have had a rocky relationship in recent months, following the revelation that he had a somewhat intimate relations with her co-star Kimbella. In other words, he smashed. Fab and Emily seem to have patched things up because earlier this month, she said: "We are dating still. You know when I first came on I said, "Oh, he doesn't claim me." He's doing all the claiming in the world now."

Well seems like the tide might have changed yet again because Fab posted the above photo of himself wearing a seatshirt with the words: "Women ruined my life." Ouch, Fab! Just try not to smash any of Emily's costars in the mean time. Do you think are Fab and Emily dunzo yet again or just a fashion statement gone wrong???

<http://bossip.com/546811/twitpic-files-have-fabulous-and-his-love-hip-hop-baby-mama-he-dont-claim-me-emily-b-finally-called-it-quits/#sthash.Guo0A1sf.dpuf>

Date: 3/18/2012

Headline: Shots Fired: Olivia Of Love & Hip Hop Talks Maino, Yandy, And Chrissy Lampkin [Video]

Post: [Embedded Video]

<http://bossip.com/558453/shots-fired-olivia-of-love-hip-hoptalks-maino-yandy-and-chrissy-lampkin-video69691/>

Date: 4/24/2012

Headline: Mama Jones Confirms Whole “Jones Family And Chrissy Lampkin Leaving Love & Hip Hop” [Video]

Post: [Embedded Video]

<http://bossip.com/576710/mama-jones-confirms-whole-jones-family-and-chrissy-lampkin-leaving-love-hip-hop-video69691/>

Date: 7/20/2012

Headline: True Or False??? Will Kanye West’s Ghostwriter Rapper Homie Consequence And His Swirly Boo-Thang Jen “The Pen” Be The First Interracial Couple On The New Season Of Love & Hip-Hop New York??

Post: Isht talkin’ rappers with babies by white girls make for reality TV GOLD! Rapper Consequence And Girlfriend Jen The Pen May Be First Interracial Couple On New Season Of Love & Hip-Hop New York Although not confirmed, Bossip has heard NUMEROUS rumors that Rapper/Producer/Songwriter “Consequence” and longtime girlfriend “Jen The Pen” have been intensely courted by Mona Scott-Young and the Executive Producers of “Love & Hip-Hop” for the 3rd Season of the NY based Reality TV Series. Cons and Jen would be the 1st interracial couple to be featured on the series and given their explosive personalities, you can bet that Monday nights would get even hotter with their additions.

This could be an interesting little development in the world of urban reality TV. Consequence has never been one to bite his tongue as evidenced by his outspoken interviews recently during his beef with Kanye and his cousin/Tribe Called Quest frontman Q-Tip.

Jen made her TV debut on Dame Dash’s BET reality competition show “The Ultimate Hustler” in 2005, it was there that Dame coined her nickname “The Pen”. A woman of man hats, Jen has also been a Gossip Girl for G-Unit Radio, Entertainment reporter for Power 92 in Chicago, and stylist for Ray J for a brief period before taking a hiatus to give birth to her and Cons’ son Caiden. How do you think an interracial couple will go over with the likely mix of other...interesting characters that Mona will cast for next season?? Check out a couple more candid shots of Cons and Jen below.

<http://bossip.com/615338/true-or-false-will-kanye-wests-ghostwriter-rapper-homie-consequence-and-his-swirly-boo-thang-jen-the-pen-be-the-first-interracial-couple-on-the-new-season-of-love-hip-hop-new-york-43081/#sthash.FKMNsc48.dpuf>

Date: 10/9/2012

Headline: Love & Hip-Hop NYC Cast Revealed ... And Guess Which D-List Pair Deserves Epitome Of Bad Parents “Honors” Already?

Post: If you were wondering how LHHNYC planned to fill the void left by Chrissy and Emily B, wonder no more. BOSSIP has the exclusive on the ladies who will be joining Season 3 of VH1's hit show — including which new faces are joining the cast and which vets you can expect to see return. We've also got plenty of details and things to look for that you can't find anywhere else.

As we first reported MONTHS back, rapper Consequence will be joining the cast, with his Becky baby mama Jen the Pen. While you may recognize Jen from her stint on Damon Dash's "Ultimate Hustler" show, homegirl has slimmed down significantly and added a gang of ish to her resume (radio personality, stylist etc...) including Mommy to her and Cons' baby boy Caiden. We don't know how much they'll show of the "real deal" on the show, but based on what we've heard Jen may pick up where Emily B. left off as the long suffering baby mama whose man ain't always that respectful. And that's putting it mildly.

<http://bossip.com/658786/love-hip-hop-nyc-cast-revealed-and-guess-which-d-list-pair-deserves-epitome-of-bad-parents-honors-already/#sthash.wMRGxzpP.dpuf>

Date: 11/8/2012

Headline: Forever A Baby Mama, Never A Bride: Fabolous Explains Why He Won't Man Up And Marry "Love & Hip-Hop" Star Emily B.

Post: Will Fab ever put a ring on it? Fabolous Says He Won't Marry Emily B Fabolous recently dished his thoughts on marriage and why he is in no rush to make a honest woman out of "Love & Hip Hop" star and baby mama Emily Bustamante Via Combat Jack Radio: "I don't think marriage is in the future for me right now. [laughs] I just really don't. And the thing about marriage is that, I believe in it but don't believe in it," Fabolous said in an interview. "I think sometimes people put on that ring and that paper, and it messes up a good thing sometimes because now it's a different emphasis on your relationship because now you can say I'm married, I got this paper — I like to just build on relationships and make sure you're in a happy relationship." Sounds like Emily won't be getting a wedding spin-off anytime soon.

<http://bossip.com/677028/forever-a-baby-mama-never-a-wife-fabolous-explains-why-he-wont-man-up-and-marry-love-hip-hop-star-emily-b/#sthash.zNBr8h3Z.dpuf>

Date: 12/6/2012

Headline: Reality TV: Love & Hip-Hop New York Cast And Premiere Date Officially Announced!

Post: See, we told you... VH1 Announces Love & Hip-Hop Cast And January 7 Premiere Date Via VH1 Love & Hip Hop is finally back!! The New York cast of the show is returning to our screens on Monday, January 7th and it's safe to say the new season will bring huge surprises and shakeups. Returning for another season are original cast members Olivia Longott and Rich Dollaz, and season two veterans Yandy Smith and Erica Mena. Beyond that, the show will

feature all-new faces and plotlines (um, hello, Rich Dollaz and Erica Mena are an item now?? We're already intrigued.) Just so you can familiarize yourself with the new cast, check out the official VH1 press release below. VH1's popular docu-series "Love & Hip Hop" is back in the Big Apple from the Dirty South for season 3. Premiering Monday, January 7th at 8PM on VH1, "Love & Hip Hop" returns with a few familiar faces and a mostly brand-new cast who prove the third time is the charm as they deliver all the drama, heartache, success and failures of hip hop's movers and shakers in the concrete jungle that is New York City. Last season, entertainment powerhouse Yandy Smith ended her eight-year management role with rapper Jim Jones. Since then, Yandy and boyfriend Mendeeces Harris have welcomed a baby boy and are navigating the waters of commitment and family. Firecracker Erica Mena exploded onto the scene last season and is now continuing to work on her career with manager and new boyfriend, Rich Dollaz. The two have recently begun mixing with business with pleasure, but could this be a recipe for disaster? Olivia Longott, the former first lady of G-Unit, is back this season working on her new album and trying to come to peace with her manager Rich dating Erica. Based on the personalities that Mona has chosen, it looks like this may be one of the best "Love & Hip-Hop" seasons so far. Between Joe and Kaylin's never-ending iRomance, those awkward moments with Tahiry and her supple cakes, and Jen and Consequences swirly family life, we are DEFINITELY looking forward to January 7th! Will you be tuned in to all the ratchetness and fawkerly in the city that never sleeps??

<http://bossip.com/691628/reality-tv-vh1-officially-announces-love-hip-hop-new-york-cast-and-premiere-date-43081/#sthash.Ix9lhNUL.dpuf>

Appendix F: Bossip's Blogs on Basketball Wives

Date: 1/30/2012

Headline: Which One Would You Wife? The Ladies Of "Basketball Wives" Season 4

Post: Basketball season has been in effect since Christmas, but now it's time for the real games to begin! Vh1 has finally unveiled the promotional shots for the new season, which starts February 20th. We've got them all here, along with all the info the network wants you to know. Here's what Vh1 had to say about Season 4: This season, "Basketball Wives" continues to explore the drama, intrigue, and delicate relationships found among a unique cross section of women bound by one fact: each has been married to, the fiancé of, or in love with, a professional ball player. In season four, episodes span from New York to Miami to LA and beyond, but wherever these women go, there is never a dull moment. From the pressure of juggling long-distance relationships, to the stress of struggling to establish financial independence, "Basketball Wives" digs deep beneath the surface. The series explores the emotional ups and downs of a life that many might envy, but few could actually imagine. As with any group of ambitious, smart, hard-working, hot women, there are strong friendships, betrayal, breakups and make-ups. In this world, the stakes are higher, the alimony payments rise into the millions, and the significant others happen to be global superstars. This season, Shaunie O'Neal is on the path to establishing herself as a business mogul. Evelyn Lozada and Jennifer Williams' 12-year friendship is in a

precarious position. Will it recover from last season's fracture? Royce Reed and Suzie Ketcham attempt to navigate uncharted waters as new chapters open in their lives. We will welcome two new ladies, whose presence will alter the ever-changing landscape. Newcomer Kesha Nichols survived every girl's worst nightmare, having her engagement broken off by her ball playing fiancé, just hours before their wedding. Kenya Bell is an aspiring recording artist, finalizing her divorce from a basketball star. It is no wonder that viewers have found this unique window into a rarely exposed world utterly addictive. As our ladies deal with relationships, life with superstars, and public scrutiny, we watch powerful female support networks thrive and fail, and friendships strengthen or flame out in spectacular fashion. With new cast members, new twists and turns and emotions running higher than ever, season four of *Basketball Wives* promises to be the best yet. Dun! Dun! Dun! Ooooh the drama... Continue for more shots of the ladies, and don't forget to tell us which one you'd wife, if any of these broads.

<http://bossip.com/534310/which-one-would-you-wife-the-ladies-of-basketball-wives-season-4/#sthash.NwqoP7Nt.dpuf>

Date: 2/3/2012

Headline: When Slores Go Wild: A History Of Basketball Wives Feuds And Ugly Fights

Post: These broads loooooove to fight. *Basketball Wives* is a great show. And by "great" we mean "wonderful place where groupies pretend to not be hoes and cat fight all the damn time". It's majestic. Our favorite part? It's the catfights! Let's take a look back at the memorable fights from *Basketball Wives*.

[8 Embedded Videos Of Fights]

<http://bossip.com/536483/when-slores-go-wild-a-history-of-basketball-wives-feuds-and-ugly-fights39204/#sthash.h5sNb5Mu.dpuf>

Date: 3/3/2012

Headline: SMH: Tami Roman Set-Trippin' On "Basketball Wives" Vacation AGAIN!!!

Post: SMH. They can't take this broad ANYWHERE!!! "Basketball Wives" Tami Roman was on her bully ish again this season, with yet another "new girl" on the receiving end of her ire. According to TMZ reports: A "Basketball Wives" vacation to Tahiti ended early for one cast member after an argument between two girls ended with one refusing to give back the other's purse ... TMZ has learned. According to our sources, Tami Roman and Kesha Nichols got into it last month about halfway through the trip because Tami felt Kesha was talking behind the other girls' backs. We're told the two had it out over dinner and Kesha stormed out ... leaving her purse behind. Our sources say Tami took the purse and held on to it, hoping Kesha would come retrieve it and they could finish their conversation. But when Kesha found out Tami had retreated back to her hotel room with the purse, we're told Kesha got hotel security involved. Hotel security wanted to get the local police involved, but our sources say the producers of the show

talked Tami into returning the purse to Kesha before the authorities got involved. We're told once the matter was settled, Kesha decided to hop the next plane back to the States. Last time the girls went on vacation, it was to Italy ... and Tami punched cast member Meeka Claxton during a nightclub brawl. Calls to reps for both girls and VH1 were not returned. SMH. We don't understand how they keep getting new broads to sign up for this ish when the same ish happens every season. Tami and Evelyn stay giving out a\$\$ whoopings and embarrassing moments.

<http://bossip.com/551452/smh-tami-roman-set-trippin-on-basketball-wives-vacation-again30346/#sthash.7n9uQYcu.dpuf>

Date: 3/15/2012

Headline: Tamia Speaks The Real On Basketball Wives: "It's Misleading And Definitely Not Reality, It Paints A Bad Picture Of The Actual Wives And Players"

Post: Basketball Wife in "real life" Tamia shares her thoughts on the VH1 reality series.... Via HuffPo Black Voices: Since you're married to an athlete, what are your thoughts on the perception of the "Basketball Wives" franchise? Well, I think the perception is definitely not a reality. I think, to be fair, a lot of those women [on the show] aren't wives. And I'm good friends with Shaunie. And as far as business is concerned, I applaud her, but I think that it's definitely very misleading in terms of what our lives are about. I do have a lot of friends who are married to athletes, and a lot of these women are involved in charities, doing all kinds of things behind the scenes and are supportive wives, and — believe it or not — have supportive husbands who are really great guys. I think not only for the women, but I think it just paints a really bad picture about the men as well. I think for athletes in general, people are like, "Why would you want to marry an athlete?" And that goes back to what I was saying to you: what works in one person's marriage, may not work in the next. So keep your eyes focused on yours! I guess it's interesting TV, but it's definitely not reality. Well put, Tamia. Grant Hill should be proud to have you as his wife. Read the interview in it's entirety at HuffPo

<http://bossip.com/557066/tamia-speaks-the-real-on-basketball-wives-its-misleading-and-definitely-not-reality-it-paints-a-bad-picture-of-the-actual-wives-and-players/#sthash.VPJsdQ5u.dpuf>

Date: 3/26/2012

Headline: Tami Roman Talks Basketball Wives Beef And Says "I'm So Real... And People Just Can't Handle That!" [Video]

Post: [Embedded Video]

<http://bossip.com/562618/tami-roman-talks-basketball-wives-beef-and-says-im-so-real-and-people-just-cant-handle-thatvideo69691/>

Date: 4/4/2012

Headline: Lawsuits: Jennifer Williams Talks Evelyn Lozada Fallout On Basketball Wives “I’m Not A Fighter And We Need To Relay A Better Portrayal” [Video]

Post: [Embedded Video]

<http://bossip.com/568038/jennifer-williams-talks-evelyn-lozada-fallout-on-basketball-wives-video69691/>

Date: 4/18/2012

Headline: Lawsuits: “Basketball Wives” Jennifer Williams Sues Evelyn’s Slap Happy Wig Wearin’ Lackey Over Race Track Attack

Post: Nia Crooks, meet the long arm of the law... Jennifer Williams Files Lawsuit Against Evelyn’s Assistant For Slapping Her “Basketball Wives” star Jennifer Williams is filing a lawsuit Wednesday against a Manhattan woman for viciously slapping her face during a taping of the reality show. Williams, also has filed a complaint with the state attorney’s office in Florida, according to her lawyer Sanford Rubenstein. “Violence used against any person is wrong but when a woman hits another woman it sets a horrible example for young girls everywhere,” Williams told the Daily News. “I choose to use the justice system to fight back,” she said in an exclusive interview. The defendant, Nia Crooks, is a personal assistant to “Basketball Wives” co-star Evelyn Lozada. Crooks belted Williams while VH1 cameras were rolling Jan. 21 in the presidential suite of the Gulfstream Park racetrack in South Florida. Williams, who lives in New Jersey, filed the suit in Manhattan Supreme Court because Crooks lives in East Harlem. Williams claims she is still suffering from a whiplash-like neck injury and post traumatic stress stemming from the slap, which was seen in the episode that aired Monday. “I was sitting at the conference room table and this girl starts arguing with me out of nowhere,” Williams recalled. “She’s not even on the show.” Crooks makes a remark about slapping reality into Williams and cracks her in the face. “I didn’t watch the video for a long time because I lived it,” she said. “It’s disturbing. It’s humiliating. I get anxiety just thinking about it.” She added: “She hit me with her open hand on my cheek. I’ve never been hit in my life.” Williams insists the incident was not scripted and the slap was the intentional act of Crooks alone. The suit seeks unspecified monetary and punitive damages from Crooks. VH1 is not named as a defendant. Crooks could not be reached for comment. Jennifer is right about one thing — the behavior on “Basketball Wives” is sending horrible messages to young girls. Clearly she’d rather fight her battles in the courthouse than hand to hand combat and we can’t say we blame her. Do you think she did the right thing by filing the lawsuit? Wonder how much her judgment will be and how Nia will pay it considering Evelyn is her main source of income.

<http://bossip.com/574258/basketball-wives-jennifer-williams-sues-evelyns-assistant-over-slap30346/#sthash.7LcrPjoz.dpuf>

Date: 4/19/2012

Headline: Reality TV: Basketball Wives Are Boycotting Their Own Reunion Show Because Of Jennifer Williams' Fade Catching Lawsuit!

Post: Is this the end?? The Basketball Wives Refuse To Attend Reuion Show Due To Jennifer Williams' Lawsuit According to TMZ reports: Several "Basketball Wives" are adamantly refusing to tape the big upcoming reunion show next month, TMZ has learned — and it's all because of the face-slap lawsuit Jennifer Williams filed against Nia Crooks. As we reported, Jennifer is suing Nia for assault and battery over a January 21st incident at a race track in Florida — when Nia slapped Williams in the side of the head after a nuclear argument (below). Jennifer says she was injured badly during the attack. But according to sources at VH1, the castmates are convinced Jennifer's lawsuit was filed out of spite and desperation to dredge up drama around her character — in the vain hope of securing a spot on the show next season. Our sources also think Jennifer's claim of emotional distress is BS because she never missed a day of shooting. We're told several prominent castmembers have vowed to shun her completely ... refusing to even speak to Jennifer — and are threatening not to attend the reunion show early next month if she attends. And there's this — the contract signed by the "Wives" castmates specifically states "Participant expressly assumes the risk of any physical or emotional injuries participant may suffer as a result of participant's participation in the project." Lawd Jesus Jennifer is gonna f**k it up for EVERYBODY if her lil punk azz lawsuit starts shuttin' down those good checks that VH1 is handing out!

<http://bossip.com/574745/reality-tv-basketball-wives-are-boycotting-their-own-reunion-show-because-of-jennifer-williams-fade-catching-lawsuit-43081/#sthash.r5LmHp4i.dpuf>

Date: 4/20/2012

Headline: Lawsuits: Pick Up Your Face: Basketball Wives' Royce Reed Blogs Her Feelings About Her Embarrassing eBreakup!

Post: [This week](#) was a [tough](#) one for Royce, she suffered one the of more [embarrassing public break-ups](#) ever with her new-turned-ex boo-thang Dezmon just DAYS after they had talks of marriage and steamy sex on "Basketball Wives". The timing couldn't have been any worse.

Yesterday, Royce took to the VH1 [site](#) to express her sadness about the situation and also to address Dezmon's baby mama, Christina, directly in an open letter.

Peep what Royce had to say below.

When I was first asked to blog about what just happened in my life, I shunned it. Now, I realize that due to my life being an open book and my "relationship" being on national TV, I should. One thing a lot of you don't know about me is I'm a 100% committed to anything I put my name

on. In a relationship comes humility. When I decided to do this show I vowed to be open, and honest about all aspects of my life that I could. I'm human! I don't portray myself to be anyone I am not. I go to the grocery store in sweats and sneakers like everyone else. Because I'm on TV doesn't mean I don't hurt or that I don't go through the same trials and tribulations as everyone else. We, Reality Stars, are put in a very vulnerable position when we sign up for these shows. No matter what we go through, the good, the bad, the ugly, when we walk outside we get recognized and judged. I'm not going to put on a front like I'm okay. My heart hurts. Do I think Dezmon loves me? Yes! Do I think what he did was wrong? Absolutely. Are we done... forever? Honestly, I don't know. Readers can say I'm dumb if I go back, but with relationships come mistakes. I was lied to and lesson learned... I entertained it on Twitter. I let the drama get to me despite being told to ignore it. That was my immaturity in this experience coming out. I admit that. Yes, I'm embarrassed, humiliated and broken. But I'm strong. Regardless of what happens I will be okay. Do I love him? Yes. Is that enough to stay? At this point, no. I entertained the mother of his son because I trusted what I was told and I stood by him as I should have. Was I the fool? Yep! Do some find it funny that I have egg on my face? Sadly yes, but that means they are lacking happiness and love in their own lives hence them basking in another person's hurt. Ignorance is bliss but it's also dangerous. As far as the logistics go..."At the end of the day" (Jen voice) he will not be with her. So the rant she went on and my responses change nothing for her life. Not only do I look like a fool in love, but she looks like a bitter, jealous and angry "Baby Momma." That's worse. Fact is, they were never an item. They were never a couple. But for just under a year, she has been angry that he has been with me. Her twitter name was @dezbriscoejrmom... That was her identity. If you go thru her page (she obviously wanted followers and a platform, so I'm giving it to her) you will see how angry she was that we were together. She spoke about the cruise we went on, him saying he loved me, wanted to marry me, etc. If she didn't care, why talk about it? If you didn't watch the show, why do you know every minute of our scenes as if you were commentating? I'm sure she wonders why she was never "the one" to marry but just "the one" to do before he met me. I can't imagine what Dezmon is feeling right now because, again, I was with my son's father for four years despite the drama we are going through. So I can't imagine having a child by someone who never claimed me or never had me front and center at some point. My son puts a smile on my face everyday so no matter what happens I know as long as I'm a good mother that in itself completes me when he wipes my tears, I clean his boo boos, and I get that hug and kiss.

<http://bossip.com/575403/pick-up-your-face-basketball-wives-royce-reed-blogs-her-feelings-about-her-embarrassing-ebreakup-43081/#sthash.6ERY9tuR.dpuf>

Date: 4/20/2012

Headline: Lawsuits: Fawk A Thug: One-Time Hits Evelyn's Slap Happy Lackey With Battery Charges For Catching Fade With Jennifer Williams On "Basketball Wives"

Post: Mess around with Jenn and you could end up doing a year in the pen! Nia Crooks Charged With Aggravated Battery For Slapping Jennifer Williams On "Basketball Wives" Nia Crooks is looking at potential jail time for her 15 minutes of fame on "Basketball Wives" according to TMZ reports: "Basketball Wives" star Nia Crooks has been charged with misdemeanor battery for pimp slappin' the taste out of Jennifer Williams' mouth back in January ... TMZ has learned.

A rep for the Broward County State's Attorney's Office tells us ... officials decided to file the charge on April 10 ... after Williams filed a criminal complaint. If convicted, Nia faces up to a year in the slammer. During the incident, which aired on last week's episode of "Basketball Wives" — Nia can be heard threatening to slap Jennifer ... to which Jennifer replied, "I wish you would." Her wish was granted. Attempts to reach Nia were unsuccessful. Now if this ain't a ho sit down, we don't know what is.

<http://bossip.com/575753/fawk-a-thug-one-time-hits-evelyns-slap-happy-lackey-with-battery-charges-for-catching-fade-with-jennifer-williams-on-basketball-wives/#sthash.S1DM8Was.dpuf>

Date: 4/21/2012

Headline: Lawsuits: The Side-Eye: Shaunie O'Neal Releases "Basketball Wives" Statement Regarding Recent Ratchetness On The Show

Post: She shoots... She spins... But does she score? Shaunie O'Neal Releases Statement Regarding Negative Depictions Of Black Women On "Basketball Wives" With the African-American community chomping at the bit over the negative depictions (fighting, lawsuits, mockery of monogamy) of Black women on "Basketball Wives" executive producer Shaunie O'Neal just had to say something... Via VIBE: "I'm extremely happy that Basketball Wives continues to have another successful fourth season. As the ratings have been through the roof since our season opener, fans continue to tune into the lives of Evelyn, Tami, Jennifer, Royce, Suzie and myself. As there is always controversy and indifference projected on the show, because we are all individual personalities, I always hope that people will find that as much as you may agree or disagree with the opinions, the behavior, [and] even our different taste in shoes, you are taking a look inside the lives of four complete different women. I will never say I agree with some of the behavior between my girlfriends on the show, but if we were to edit certain things out the show would be scripted and not reality. As a woman of color with kids, I am very aware of myself, but I also have to be aware that my choices cannot be the same for everyone on the show and I have to respect that. I hope the fans feel they see a balance and know we have always been real with our stories, even though it may not always be a positive portrayal of adult women but real women nonetheless. I look forward to developing other media platforms in the future and hope that fans will continue to support." Unlike some of her friends and cast mates, she chooses not to eclipse her good character by becoming physically violent. O'Neal wants to maintain her role as an example to young women, especially as she is a mother and businesswoman. She continuously gives back to the community and was, most recently, spotted lending a hand at the Los Angeles Mission for their annual Easter day festivities. *cough* Bullshit!*cough* There Shaunie goes again talking about balance. We peeped her lil attempt to show her Mom of the Year behavior a couple episodes back with Mimi's birthday party but other than that it's been a bunch of cussing and slapping and wine bottle throwing. Shaunie, let's keep it real boo boo (in our Evelyn voice) birds of a feather flock together. Y'all can't be that different.

<http://bossip.com/575768/the-side-eye-shaunie-oneal-releases-basketball-wives-statement-regarding-recent-ratchetness-on-the-show/#sthash.O9EnQkho.dpuf>

Date: 4/30/2012

Headline: Lawsuits: Clearing The Air: “Jennafuh” Williams Speaks Her Piece On Basketball Wives And Catching Fade With “The Assistant”

Post: After last night’s episode of Basketball Wives, Jennifer felt she needed to clarify her “bum bi***” comments. Jennifer Williams Blogs About Her Fight With Nia And Subsequent Lawsuit And the BS continues... I honestly could not stomach to watch last week’s episode. I had lived through the craziness and to relive it was just too much for me. But I would like to clarify a few things. First up, I never had an issue with “the assistant” up until that day. At one point, we were good friends. We went out together, went to dinner, stayed at each other’s houses and shared plenty of good times and laughs. There had been some incidents leading up to why I started pulling away from the friendship but I don’t feel the need to blast that information. However, the most important reason why I eased up on the friendship is because she started working for someone who refers to themselves as my “enemy.” To me being good friends would just cause the situation to be messy so I rather fall back. No love lost and I like I said, I didn’t have any issue with her until she put her hands on me. Ok now let’s get to the foolery... AGAIN!!! I just find it so unfortunate someone I once called a friend has no respect for me and felt the need to violent me physically. So of course after you completely disrespect me by putting your hands on me, my mouth is going to get reckless. I am not happy for the things I said to her but I was caught off guard and left in a vulnerable state. The 2-bedroom apartment comment got taken way out of context. I live in a 2-bedroom apartment so why would I look down on her for that. My point was don’t act like I lived with you when you live in a 2 bedroom apartment with a roommate. There would be no room for me and all my stuff that barely fits in my 2-bedroom apartment in NJ. The whole attack against me was pointless. Okay, we aren’t friends no need to fight about it let’s all be mature adults and move on. People come into your life for a reason, season or a lifetime. I wish it didn’t have to be this way, it makes me sad but that is life. I did what I felt was right by filing a police report and having my attorneys handling the situation. I am an entrepreneur and a mature adult. Who fights at this age? I was taught to let the authorities handle criminals. Having graduated with a degree in Political Science and a concentration in Pre-Law, I am fully aware of my legal rights and the justice system. If you put your hands on someone, there will be repercussions. End of story... For the record, I have changed. I am striving to be an independent woman and I am building a future for myself. I have zero time or tolerance for BS. I am not sitting around waiting for a man to take care of me. Lucid is 100% mine; I built it from the ground up. No licensing deal or I am a paid spokes model. I don’t sit around and knock what my cast mates are trying to do business wise. Be a leader and not a follower, no one was thinking about the cosmetic industry until way after Lucid. At the end of the day, I find it all unfortunate that I am the constant topic when it comes to hate and no one can uplift one another. Fame has never been a weakness of mine but by watching this show I can’t say the same for all the ladies. I just hope everyone can recognize what is really important in this life because Basketball Wives will not always be the HOT thing... Then what??? Special thank you to my legal team, Corey Boddie, Sanford Rubenstein and Sabrina Puglisi also my publicist,

Elizabeth Traub and my manager, Deanna Morales. And thank you to all my family and friends who have been so supportive of me during all this craziness. I cannot forget my loyal viewers, much love. “Many walk in and out of our lives, but only those who leave footprints really matter.”- Unknown Peace and blessings, JW
 What say you about Jennafuh’s lil’ soliloquy??? -

<http://bossip.com/576734/clearing-the-air-jennifer-williams-speaks-her-piece-on-basketball-wives-and-catching-fade-with-the-assistant-43081/#sthash.JOpJIJI.dpuf>

Date: 4/30/2012

Headline: Lawsuits: “Basketball Wives” Producers Plotting To Sue Jennifer Williams For ‘Ruining Their Brand’

Post: It looks as if the “Basketball Wives” brand is imploding before our very eyes... and the show producers claim Jennifer Williams is to blame. Basketball Wives Producers Planning To Sue Jennifer Williams According to TMZ reports: “Basketball Wives” producers are taking their feud with cast member Jennifer Williams to the next level ... the show’s big-wigs are currently in talks to file a lawsuit against the “BB Wife” for publicly trashing the show. If you recall ... producers of VH1’s hit series were PISSED after Williams filed a lawsuit against fellow cast member Nia Crooks after she slapped Williams in the face while taping an episode. Now sources tell TMZ — producers are ready to take their own legal action after Williams went on a media rampage and blasted “BB Wives” alleging the show portrays African-American women negatively. According to our sources, producers feel Williams’ show-bashing is in violation of her contract — which forbids cast members from doing any media appearances or press without approval, or speaking negatively about the show. We’re told they feel she is “ruining the brand” they worked so hard to build. SMH. They can’t be serious!!! After all the ho shit that has gone down on that show they cannot seriously be taking legal action against a cast member who has done nothing except take abuse on camera repeatedly. This is just cray!

<http://bossip.com/579320/lawsuits-basketball-wives-producers-plotting-to-sue-jennifer-williams-for-ruining-their-brand/#sthash.ZFoAy0Wd.dpuf>

Date: 5/7/2012

Headline: Lawsuits: Tami Roman Says Millions Of Ratchet Reality TV Viewers Will “Suffer” If Basketball Wives Doesn’t Air Behind Hair Product Promo

Post: Are the days of Basketball Wives coming to an unbe-weave-able end???? Hair Company Threatens To Have Basketball Wives Pulled Over Tami Roman Lawsuit According to TMZ reports: “Basketball Wives” star Tami Roman is begging a Texas court NOT to let a hairy legal battle stop her reality show from airing ... because, according to her, millions would suffer. TMZ broke the story ... Roman was sued in March by Crème de la Crème hair company for allegedly

bailing on her endorsement duties and then promoting her OWN hair line instead. The company asked the court to stop VH1 from showing any segments where Tami promoted her line instead of theirs. Now Roman is firing back ... claiming in court docs that she is the VICTIM because Crème didn't pay her on time, thus breaking any obligation she had to them or their hair extensions. Roman goes on to claim that prohibiting the show from airing would affect "millions of people" and the harm suffered by Crème de la Crème "pales in comparison." Roman is asking the court to let the show air as is, along with ordering Crème to remove her name and likeness from any products and pay her court costs. A judge has yet to rule on the case. Wouldn't that be crazy if Basketball Wives were to get cancelled because of some cotdamn weave?!?!

<http://bossip.com/582182/lawsuits-tami-roman-says-millions-of-ratchet-reality-tv-viewers-will-suffer-if-basketball-wives-doesnt-air-behind-hair-product-promo-43081/#sthash.CcpoOL4j.dpuf>

Date: 5/11/2012

Headline: Tanya Young Says "Basketball Wives" Producers Started Drama Among The Cast And That Being A Sophisticated Black Lady Made Her A Threat To The Show

Post: Do you believe her? If you even remember the blonde dreadlocked estranged wife of Jayson Williams who appeared in early episodes of "Basketball Wives" L.A. spinoff, you might recall how long-winded she could be. But this time she's put her wordiness to good use. In a scathing editorial Young penned for The Daily Beast, Young details the ins and outs with her experience on "Basketball Wives:L.A." summing up the franchise as such: The show has been produced to look like an embarrassing, demeaning, degrading, violent, and outright ignorant display of our worst selves. She goes so far as to say the experience was so toxic she often headed straight into the shower after taping: I certainly don't miss the environment I was exposed to while taping Basketball Wives. It was both toxic and controlling. Women were not allowed to communicate after shooting a scene; women were chastised as if they were children; high-ranking executives would childishly ignore cast members on the set; and producers would "ice" cast members from working when they wanted to garner more outrageous conduct from them. Despite the "friendships" portrayed on the screen, some producers purposely planted seeds of discord between the women, and told outright lies, hoping that conflict and drama would ensue. Oftentimes, when I arrived at home, I immediately took a shower because I felt psychologically and emotionally dirty and disgusting from my day on the set. Wow, is this really the stuff reality TV is made of? Despite her issues with the show, Williams maintained that she remained a part of the cast in order to bring the balance that has been sorely lacking — except her sophisticated black lady steez was only perceived as a threat to the producers grimy intentions: I shot Basketball Wives LA for months, including wonderful footage of my involvement with the domestic-violence hotline, an event at my home, a charity event for another cast member, and "normal" dining outings with the women. Yet I was only shown in two episodes. I was not only a threat because I would not belittle myself and simultaneously embarrass my mother, my daughters, and every black women in America, I was also a threat because I told the women that "no television show is worth fighting on and disgracing yourself for." Despite the fact that legions of fans and supporters wrote to VH1 and on blogs of their

desire to see a balanced show, which they felt that I represented, Shed Media decided that a “sophisticated” (their words not mine) woman like me didn’t fit into the new and evolving storylines (“storylines” in the same sentence with Basketball Wives sounds comical). For a time, I wanted to remain a part of Basketball Wives because I felt that my core values and outlook on life represented a larger percentage of the audience than VH1 understood existed. However, that desire waned quickly as I became engrossed in more fulfilling work in media.

<http://bossip.com/584163/tanya-young-says-basketball-wives-producers-started-drama-among-the-cast-and-that-being-a-sophisticated-black-lady-made-her-a-threat-to-the-show/#sthash.pJ7w4B0H.dpuf>

Date: 5/15/2012

Headline: Evelyn Lozada Blogs About Her Reaction The Basketball Wives “Tahiti” Episode And Becoming A Better Person

Post: Last night’s episode was a whirlwind of emotions for everyone. It’s such a sensitive subject for me because I honestly see it from both sides. I’m not here to condemn or condone anyone especially given some of my choices this season, however I will say that once again last night’s episode and all that happened forced me to look at and examine myself in ways that I haven’t in the past. No matter what the situation is, I’m realizing that we as grown women are allowing ourselves to be placed in a position for judgment. I’m confident that I speak for many of us on the show that when it comes to creating a better balance for television, we are all working very hard to do just that. Many of us are getting help for our inner issues and striving to portray a more positive image overall. Tahiti was just an example of all of us being a true work in progress... Hang in there with us, as we vow to grow and become better! Until next week! xoxo,

Ev Evelyn seems to have had an awakening of sorts after watching the fawkery that has taken place over this season. Hopefully these words are not in vain.

<http://bossip.com/586041/evelyn-lozada-blogs-about-her-reaction-the-basketball-wives-tahiti-episode-and-becoming-a-better-person-43081/#sthash.F8KmEYuj.dpuf>

Date: 5/21/2012

Headline: Meeka Claxton Wants To Know Where Your “Basketball Wives” Petition Was Last Year When Tami Was Mushing Her Face In

Post: Poor thang! Bernie Mac wit a wig on Meeka Claxton took to her blog last week to cry about how the public is just now calling out the foul behavior on “Basketball Wives” and wondering why she didn’t get any sympathy last season. Here’s what she had to say: Meeka the violence on reality television has to stop!” “Meeka, I’m so glad you left that show!” “Meeka, I hate how reality TV is portraying black women!” “Meeka, can you believe the way grown

women are acting?” “Meeka, those girls are bullies with serious issues” “Meeka, I stopped watching that show because the violence is disgusting!!”... ..These are some of my actual twitter mentions. For the last 3 months, my twitter has been flooded with these comments and hundreds more exactly like them. I said it on the reunion and I will say it again, I’m 32, a CEO, a wife and a mommy, I did not sign up for Bad Girls Club. As a mom, I am my daughters’ FIRST role model and as a black woman who has been given a platform, I have a responsibility to show young girls “better”. Am I mad? No, more like I’m disappointed. When I was attacked everyone thought it was funny. No one thought her actions were disgraceful. As a matter of fact the very same ladies (for lack of a better word) that are “hurt” by the backlash, joked about me being attacked. They laughed and even called me names for taking a stand against her. I thought pressing charges was wack? Ooooooh, I get it...it’s wack when it’s not you! They all (except Royce) stood behind her, co-signing her actions. But now you want everyone to believe you want balance? As much as their hypocrisy bothers me, I expect it because now their actions threaten their money. So, I knew the crocodile tears weren’t far behind. What really hurts me are all of the talk show hosts and journalists that are suddenly disturbed by what they are seeing. Taking stands, boycotting, signing petitions etc...Isn’t this what I contacted all of you about last year? I asked for your support, none of which I received. But now it’s a problem? So, it was ok for me to be physically assaulted? Where was all of this “Call To Action” last year? Am I less of a human being? ...“Silence is the real crime against humanity.”– Nadezhda Mandelstam If we remember correctly, Meeka talked way more trash than Kesha and was kind of a thirst bucket when it came to Evelyn and Jenn. That said, does she have a good point? Or is this another thirst bucket cry for attention?

<http://bossip.com/587932/meeke-claxton-wants-to-know-where-your-basketball-wives-petition-was-last-year-when-tami-was-mushing-her-face-in/#sthash.o5lv8pBX.dpuf>

Date: 5/29/2012

Headline: Magazine Covers: Tia Mowry Is Front And Center On This Month’s Vibe Vixen, Talks Being An Author, “The Game”, And What She REALLY Thinks About The Basketball Wives!

Post: Hi Tia *Royce The 5’9 voice* Tia Mowry Covers Vibe Vixen BET star, Reality TV star, Author, and Mommy Tia Mowry sits with Vibe Vixen to let her fans know what’s been going on in her life as of late.

VV: Now, Tia and Tamera is in a totally different category of reality shows such as Basketball Wives. How do you view those type of reality shows? TM: I haven’t seen Basketball Wives, but I heard about it. I am a huge fan of the Real Housewives of Atlanta, but I just think that Tamera and I have a different take on these reality shows. I remember when we were pitching our show to different networks, many of them didn’t want to pick it up because they felt like we didn’t have enough conflict. My sister and I were like, ‘We aren’t those type of people,’ so it’s all about us being positive role models. People always say it’s nice to see fresh, vibrant, funny women on television, and that’s my sister and I. That’s how our career has always been and we knew we

weren't going to change who we are for the show business, so it's kind of something that has been accepted.

Did she just say she's never seen "Basketball Wives"?? Girl stop, we know you been media-trained to death, but c'mon now!

<http://bossip.com/591207/magazine-covers-tia-mowry-is-front-and-cent-on-vibe-vixen-to-talk-being-an-author-the-game-and-what-she-really-thinks-about-basketball-wives-43081/4/#sthash.CIbhYupu.dpuf>

Date: 5/31/2012

Headline: "Basketball Wives" Jennifer Williams Wants To Know "What Ever Happened To The G-Code???"

Post: If you watched the finale of "Basketball Wives" Monday you know exactly what she's talking about. Jennifer Williams Calls Out Evelyn Lozada For Mudslinging Much like Jennifer, we were disappointed to see Evelyn resort to trashing Jennifer's reputation in Tahiti on camera — trying to call her out over her sexual history in front of millions of viewers. Well Jennifer wants to know "What Ever Happened To The G-Code"? Peep her final blog about the show on the flippy.

<http://bossip.com/592172/basketball-wives-jennifer-williams-wants-to-know-what-ever-happened-to-the-g-code/#sthash.MhvuWusR.dpuf>

Date: 6/1/2012

Headline: Basketball Wives Finale: Shaunie O'Neal Talks To Pastor About Reflection Of Ratchet Her Show Displays "They Will Look At Me Like I'm Trash Too!" [Video]

Post: [Embedded Video]

<http://bossip.com/592781/shaunie-oneal-talks-to-pastor-about-reflection-of-ratchet-her-show-is-displaying-they-will-look-at-me-like-im-trash-too-video69691/>

Date: 6/11/2012

Headline: *Exclusive Shots* Kesha Nichols Of Basketball Wives Says "The Show Is Negative For Black Women And Shaunie Should Have Said Something" [Video]

Post:

[Embedded Video]

<http://bossip.com/596994/exclusive-shots-kesha-nichols-of-basketball-wives-admits-the-show-is-negative-for-black-women-video69691/#sthash.882Jk3X3.dpuf>

Date: 6/18/2012

Headline: Rumor Control: Shaunie O’Neal Says She Had NO Part In Firing Royce, Kesha, And “Jennafuh” From Basketball Wives!

Post: Does Shaunie need more people?? According to TMZ reports: “Basketball Wives” star Shaunie O’Neal says it’s not her fault three cast members were axed ... telling people she learned the news when everyone else did ... sources close to Shaunie tell TMZ As TMZ previously reported, three major “BB Wives” were canned recently — Jennifer Williams, Royce Reed and Kesha Nichols. But Shaunie is telling friends, despite the accusations, the cuts were NOT made by her. Sources close to Shaunie (who is also an executive producer on the show) tell TMZ she was blindsided by the news. We’re told Shaunie says the production company leaves her in the dark about everything after she butted heads with them over the violent direction the show was headed (i.e on-air brawls and cat-fights). According to our sources, Shaunie is upset over the current situation and wants Shed Media (the prod. co.) to know ... she is willing to walk away from the series if it becomes something she no longer believes in. So the production company on YOUR show fired three cast members and gave you NO notice??? Sounds like rumor control if you ask us...

<http://bossip.com/600076/rumor-control-shaunie-oneal-says-she-had-no-part-in-firing-royce-kesha-and-jennafuh-from-basketball-wives-43081/#sthash.G51DC7k9.dpuf>

Date: 6/21/2012

Headline: When The Checks Stop Coming In: Basketball Wives “Jennafuh” Williams Is Facing \$90,000 Lawsuit And Repossession Of Her Bentley For Non-Payment Since 2009!

Post: According to TMZ reports: Salt on the wound for fired “Basketball Wives” star Jennifer Williams — TMZ has learned her expensive Bentley is on the verge of being repossessed ... by force of law. The Toyota Motor Credit Corporation in Syosset, NY just filed a lawsuit against Williams, claiming she stopped making payments on her used 2006 white Bentley back in 2009 — and it wants the car back. According to the lawsuit, TMCC has made several attempts to peacefully repossess the vehicle ... but was unsuccessful. Now, it wants a court to FORCE Williams to give back the car. TMCC is also demanding Williams pay the entire outstanding balance on the car — \$92,310. A rep for Williams tells TMZ, “Jennifer hasn’t been served documents in reference to this lawsuit. Anything related to community property acquired during

the marriage, such as the car, is an issue that is currently being addressed in her divorce proceedings.” TMZ broke the story ... Williams filed for divorce from her husband Eric in July 2011. Jennifer can’t possibly be living the struggle life this soon can she?

<http://bossip.com/601873/when-the-checks-stop-coming-in-basketball-wives-jennafuh-williams-is-facing-90000-lawsuit-and-repossession-of-her-bentley-for-non-payment-since-2009-43081/#sthash.H13LG6i1.dpuf>

Date: 7/19/2012

Headline: Basketball Wives’ “Jennafuh” Williams Drops Her Lawsuit Against Evelyn Lozada’s Slap-Happy Lackey Nia Crooks!

Post: According to TMZ reports: “Basketball Wives” star Nia Crooks is finally off the hook for bitch-slapping her VH1 co-star Jennifer Williams ... because Jennifer is officially dropping her lawsuit. TMZ broke the story ... Williams filed a lawsuit against Crooks ... claiming she suffered serious injuries and psychological damage when Crooks belted her across the face back in January. Fortunately, the smack was caught on tape and aired on the VH1 reality show. Classic. But earlier this month, Williams decided to abandon her lawsuit ... and filed court docs to end the legal war forever. Sources say there was no settlement — Jennifer simply decided not to move forward. A rep for Jennifer tells TMZ she is “already dealing with her difficult divorce and did not feel that it was necessary to continue to pursue civil action.” Nia’s lawyer Javier Solano tells TMZ, “We have always maintained that the frivolous lawsuit brought by Jennifer Williams was nothing short of a last-gasp attempt to maintain her dwindling relevance on the ‘Basketball Wives.’” “Nia is happy to put this issue behind her and start looking ahead to work on her own career.” We can’t help but wonder is Jennafuh dropping this lawsuit since she has kissed and made up with Evelyn Lozada?

<http://bossip.com/614488/basketball-wives-jennafuh-williams-drops-her-lawsuit-against-evelyn-lozadas-slap-happy-lackey-nia-crooks-43081/#sthash.apTKQSw6.dpuf>

Date: 9/24/2012

Headline: Reunited: Congratulations!!! Ex-NBA Baller Stephon Marbury’s Wife Added To The Cast Of VH1’s “Basketball Wives

Post: Hopefully they get VH1 in China... Via TMZ reports: Sources close to the production tell us ... Tasha Marbury is in final talks to join the show — a much needed cast replacement after Royce, Jennifer and Kesha were all axed. We’re told producers approached Tasha for two main reasons ... she’s actually a basketball wife (she and Stephon married in 2002) ... and secondly she’s already friends with some of the other “wives.” Sources tell us, Tasha was previously asked to do season 1 of “BB Wives”, except Stephon nixed the idea — but now he lives in China part time playing for the Beijing Ducks ... and changed his tune.

We're also told producers are still looking to fill a couple more spots. One of which might be Evelyn Lozada's — considering she has yet to make decision about returning to the show. What other baller wives would you like to see on the next season of "Basketball Wives?"

<http://bossip.com/651199/congratulations-ex-nba-baller-stephon-marburys-wife-added-to-the-cast-of-vh1s-basketball-wives/#sthash.PAtix5tK.dpuf>

Date: 10/17/2012

Headline: Reunited: Did Basketball Wives Star Royce Reed Get Back With "Dirty Dog" Dezmon Briscoe After He Admitted To Sending Freaky Texts To Other Hoes??

Post: Some broads never learn... Royce Reed dumped NFL baller Dezmon Briscoe earlier this year after rumors of infidelity surfaced. The BBW star was left humiliated after it came out that her baller boo had been sending freaky messages to his baby mother, Christina Nero and other jumpoffs. After his sidechicks put the dirty dog on blast via Twitter, Dezmon was forced to admit that he did indeed write the messages, and his relationship with Royce was donezo! Or so we thought.

Looks like Royce doesn't understand the concept of "When someone shows you who they are, believe them..." Do you think Royce has taken her Dirty Dog back?

<http://bossip.com/663915/reunited-did-basketball-wives-star-royce-reed-get-back-with-dirty-dog-dezmon-briscoe-after-he-admitted-to-sending-freaky-texts-to-other-hoes/#sthash.pxOaVB5u.dpuf>

Date: 12/20/2012

Headline: Wait, What? Evelyn Denies Acting Like A Bottle Bustin' Wild Banshee On Basketball Wives – "I Was Never A Bully"

Post: Supposedly reformed BBW banger Evelyn Lozada might acknowledge that she needs to make some changes to the ratchet behavior she became known for on the show, but when it comes to being labeled as a "bully," she says she refuses to wear that title.

via S2S Magazine

Last season the women came under fire for their violent antics and culture of cast antagonism. But Evelyn argues that it didn't come out of nowhere and she refused to be labels as a bully.

“Any arguments that I have had on the show have been because there was drama and catiness going on amongst the girls,” Evelyn explained. “You know, I was never a bully. I never just picked on someone. ... We actually had real, catty, reality TV show issue.”

It was that behavior, though, that caused one Spelman student to call for a boycott of her now-cancelled spin-off “Ev & Ocho,” which was later expanded to “BBW.”

“There was a lot of controversy,” said Evelyn, who assured that VH1 viewers will see a much different approach to cast discord this season. “You can tell that we just have a different mindset. I mean, we’re not going to [not] voice our opinion, but at the same time, we’re not going to be physical with anyone.”

She continued, “We’re definitely changing that.”

Hmmm. Tammi and Evelyn were both on their best bully-ish last season, but it was Tammi’s tirade against former cast member Kesha Nichols that brought the BBW “bully behavior” to the forefront of the show.

Do you agree that Evelyn isn’t a bully? Or is she still in denial about the truth?

<http://bossip.com/700009/the-side-eye-evelyn-denies-acting-like-a-bottle-bustin-wild-banshee-on-basketball-wives-i-was-never-a-bully/#sthash.kgzeGUh6.dpuf>