



ASK DEANNA!
*Real People,
Real Advice*

Ask Deanna! Is an advice column known for its fearless approach to reality-based subjects!

Dear Deanna!

I'm 24 and single with two kids. The many guys I've dated all seem the same. Now I have a bad attitude assuming all men are alike and I'll never find a good one. I'm close-minded because men prove to be sorry every time they open their mouth. I hate being this way because I feel my insecurities may block the good men that come along. The only men I truly love are my two boys, and I don't know what to do.

Looking for A Good One
Denver, CO

Dear Looking:

Pick your face up off the ground and stop blaming men for your issues. Stop celebrating your pity party and realize that you attract what you project. These men are a reflection of you, because you spend too much time feeling sorry for yourself instead of building yourself up. Love your children and, also, learn to love the good qualities about yourself and think positive. Your viewpoint will change as soon as you shed the sour outlook you have on life and men.

★★★★★

Dear Deanna!

As a man in prison, I find it offensive that we're always classified as "all the good men are in jail." This statement made by women is nothing but an excuse because they can't get a man at all. Why do women say this? Is it because they're not good enough to get a man that's free and want to throw off on us good men?

Jason
Raleigh, NC Central Prison

Dear Jason:

If you were such a good man, you wouldn't be on lock down behind bars. Some women use the men behind bars story as an excuse for not having a man because they have issues and dating problems at the moment. Come to think of it, you should take that reference as a compliment. You could be classified as "tag makers" or "don't drop the soap" but you're good men that simply made bad choices.

★★★★★

Dear Deanna!

I'm having some hard times right now. I lost my job, have no money and got evicted from my home. I'm sick and tired of people telling me to pray, look to God and have faith. I've had people tell me to have faith, have faith, have faith. But when I ask them to show me where it says that in the Bible, they can't tell me. Where in the Bible does it tell me to have faith and things will be fixed?

Wanda
Las Vegas, NV

Dear Wanda:

Faith is so powerful that you can witness miracles with faith the size of a mustard seed which is smaller than a grain of salt. Turn your problems, pain and misery over to the Lord, and place Hebrews Chapter 11, Verse 1, in your heart. By reading this, you'll learn that faith is to be sure of things we hope for and to be certain of things we can't see. Trust me, God's in the blessing business, and with faith. He'll turn your life around.

★★★★★

Ask Deanna is written by Deanna M. Write Ask Deanna! via Email: askdeanna1@yahoo.com or 264 S. LaCienega Blvd. Suite 1283 Beverly Hills, CA 90211. Website: www.askdeanna.com

Coach shares advice on aiding youth

By Kam Williams
Sentinel-Voice

Richmond High School Coach Ken Carter made national news in 1999 when he locked out his undefeated basketball team in order to push them to improve their grades. Carter not only closed the school gym, but he banned all basketball-related activities and was prepared to cancel the entire season program, because so many of his players were not meeting the academic goals they had agreed to accomplish in contracts they had signed at the start of the semester.

Now Samuel L. Jackson is starring in a bio-pic based on Carter's life and he is still a very active advocate for youth in the Richmond community. He remains dedicated to providing them with opportunities to build meaningful relationships with both their peers and with caring adults, plus he recognizes the advantages inherent in a sound sports program.

Ken attended George Fox University, Oregon and has received numerous awards and accolades for his dedicated work.

Besides coaching, Carter is owner/operator of Prime Time Publications and Prime Time Sports, and is much in demand as a motivational speaker.

KW: How does it feel to have your life made into a movie?

CC: "It's sort of surreal to see a story from my neighborhood up on the big screen."

KW: Are you happy with the finished product?

CC: "Yes. I'm pleased with the casting of the movie, and with how they kept the movie real. The storyline is great. The acting is excellent."

KW: How did you come up with your academic-oriented approach to coaching and having your kids sign a contract?

CC: "Well, in business, with everything you do that's extremely important, sir, you sign some sort of contract. So, we needed some structure for these young men because their lives were unorganized. And our program had four aspects that we wanted to work on: accountability, integrity, leadership and teamwork. That was the core of the program."

KW: What events led you to the decision to put academics first and to forfeit games?

CC: "When the kids were



The real Carter: Richmond High School coach Ken Carter is the subject of a movie about his impact on his athletes.

not upholding up their end of the contract that they, along with their parents, had signed, I had to lock the doors even though we were undefeated and ranked very high in the State of California."

KW: Did you meet a lot of resistance from students and parents?

CC: [laughs heartily] "Oh, yes. I was not a very popular person in our community, sir, because people thought that winning the state title was going to be the highlight in these kids' lives. But I felt that if that was the case, then we were doing a very poor job as educators and as lead-

ers in our community. I just wanted something better for our kids, and I knew they could do it."

KW: Did it work?

CC: "Yes. Once we raised the bar, the kids rose to meet the level of whatever expectations we set for them."

KW: Did you like how Samuel L. Jackson portrayed you?

CC: "Mr. Jackson did an excellent job, sir. He's a perfectionist. In preparing for the role, we attended basketball games together, and I shared my philosophy with him. And in four months of shooting, he didn't miss a single line. Plus, he was working along with many young actors who were in their first movie. So, he was coaching on the set also."

KW: Yeah, I interviewed Texas Battle, a player-turned-actor who had been a star at the University of Texas. My brother-in-law, who was a producer of the TV-show "Slamball," told me you were a coach in the league. How did that go?

CC: "We won the championship that year. I used the same [contract], with a little (See Carter, Page 14)

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