

ENTERTAINMENT

Marley fans mark singer's birthday


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 tired of the way you treat people. As a degreed and educated physician, I feel the advice you give lacks passion and sensitivity. You're so cold and act as if you don't consider people's feelings and emotions when they write you. I would like to see you take it easy on some of your responses.

Dr. Paul Hart
Washington, DC

Dear Dr. Hart:

I don't know which is the silliest—you or 50-Cent wearing a bulletproof vest. Yes, people are hurting but they receive advice based upon reality and the spirit of keeping it real which society often fails to do. I believe you're a doctor all right. More like Dr. Seuss. With that said, take my prescription and go Hop on Pop or eat some Green Eggs and Ham.

★★★★★

Dear Deanna!

My wife and I are an affluent Black couple in our early thirties. We're having a hard time meeting Black couples on our financial and mental level. We don't want to hang with people in their late 30's or 40's just to have friends, but it seems that's the only people on our level. We've both "outgrown" our previous friends. Any suggestions on meeting other couples to have fun with that aren't a financial burden?

Anonymous
Denver, CO

Dear Anonymous:

If you want to make friends, stop being an arrogant snot rag. Instead of thinking people aren't on your level, maybe you're not on theirs. In a nutshell, you lack the polish you need to penetrate the circles you're looking for. Affluent people socialize but you're immaturely looking to hang out. Regardless of age, if you have things in common with other couples you need to get in where you fit in. In your area, look into the Denver Chapter of the National Black MBA Association. If not, you and your wife will continue to be on an island alone.

★★★★★

Dear Deanna!

I have a problem with my boyfriend. Every time we go somewhere he looks at other girls walk by or those at the bus stop or in traffic. When I catch him looking he gets a blushing smile on his face. We always argue over this so I'm wondering if I have the problem. With a two year history, I love him a lot and often tell him so. He used to tell me he loves me too but now he doesn't. Is he losing interest?

Simply T.
Online E-Mail

Dear T:

Some men have a "stupid vein" in their neck that makes their head turn and look at other women when they shouldn't. There are a few problems in this deal. The blushing smile needs to be slapped off his face and his disrespect is making you insecure. Lay your cards on the table and tell him how you feel about his behavior and his missing love expressions. If things don't change, kiss those two years good-bye and keep it moving.

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

KINGSTON, Jamaica (AP)—Bob Marley's potent music promoting "one love" and social justice roared Sunday as reggae lovers from around the globe gathered in his birthplace of Jamaica and the Rastafarian holy land of Ethiopia to celebrate the late star's 60th birthday.

Huge speakers thumped the bass lines of Marley songs as dozens of tourists bobbed their heads and swayed along outside the singer's home-turned-shrine in Kingston, the Jamaican capital.

Prime Minister P.J. Patterson has declared an official yearlong celebration to mark Marley's birthday, while thousands are expected to attend tribute concerts to honor the singer, who died of cancer in 1981 at age 36.

At Marley's former home, now a museum, tourists took turns getting their photographs taken with a bronze statue of the dreadlocked singer holding his Gibson guitar and pointing a finger skyward.

Chris Kern, of Austin, Texas, said the social commentary in songs like "No Woman, No Cry" drew him to Marley's music at a young age.

"As I got older I started to understand the message even more because it came from the heart," Kern said as a group of Rastafarians swayed to the beat while puffing on long marijuana "spliffs."

Born Feb. 6, 1945, in rural



Stephanie Marley, right, daughter of Bob Marley cuts a birthday cake in honor of her father along with grandchildren, left to right, Matthew, Peter, Christian and Sage on Sunday, in Kingston, Jamaica. Fans throughout the world marked Marley's birthday.

St. Ann parish, Marley rose from the gritty shantytowns of Kingston to international stardom and remains one of Jamaica's most beloved sons. His poignant lyrics calling for peace, love and justice made him an icon around the globe.

"He literally introduced Jamaica to millions worldwide, no matter where they lived, what language they spoke and despite their lot in life," Marley photographer Howard Moo Young wrote in Sunday's *Jamaica Gleaner* newspaper.

In East Africa, revelers jammed the main square in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, the first time a mass celebration for Marley's birthday has been held outside Jamaica.

Tens of thousands attended the free event, dubbed "Africa Unite" after one of Marley's songs. African stars paid tribute by performing at the concert, including Youssou N'dour and Baaba Maal of Senegal and Angelique Kidjo of Benin. Marley's five sons, his widow Rita and other former "Wailers" also performed.

This year's celebration was somewhat overshadowed by a surprise announcement from Rita Marley that she planned to exhume the singer's remains in northern Jamaica and rebury them in his "spiritual homeland" of Ethiopia.

Enraged Jamaicans said she would be robbing Jamaica of its national heritage and

the singer's widow appeared to rethink, claiming she had been misquoted.

Marley's lyrics were laden with references to his faith, in which followers worship Ethiopia's last emperor, Haile Selassie, as a living god, preach a strict oneness with nature and smoke marijuana as a sacrament.

In the volatile Trenchtown slum where Marley was raised, residents had soccer matches, a foot race, craft shows and other events in tribute of their favorite son.

The densely populated tenement area is still mired in the social troubles that informed his lyrics: it has been the site of frequent gunbattles between rival gangs, contrib-

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Singer Houston: Injury result of possession

NEW YORK (AP)—The devil made him do it, representatives for R&B singer Houston said in a statement explaining how his eye was seriously gouged.

Houston's publicist issued a statement this past Thursday denying reports that he tried to take his life by jumping from a London hotel window last week. The statement said Houston had "found himself in the midst of a spiritual battle against the evil that runs rampant in the entertainment industry."

Houston, whose 2004 single "I Like That" was used in a McDonald's commercial, was found in his London hotel room with a serious eye injury. He was briefly hospitalized.

"I went to check on him before going to bed and I saw blood on the floor,"

Houston's bodyguard, Marco Powell, said in the statement. "Houston was lying on his bed with a towel over his face and I removed the towel to find his eye hanging out. He said he had to get the devil off of his back and that's the only way he could kill the devil."

Houston, whose full name is Houston Summers IV, is a Los Angeles native. He was raised strictly Christian and was "constantly at odds with the temptations that come with success in the music business," the statement said.

The incident prompted a statement from Bushwick Bill of the rap group The Geto Boys. In 1991, a severely intoxicated Bushwick forced his girlfriend to assist him in a suicide attempt. She shot him in the eye, but he miraculously survived.

"Fame will make you

crazy," Bushwick's statement said. "I want Houston to know that he is in my prayers, and that I will ask God to give him peace of mind and peace of heart, and I hope his eye heals as well as his mind and his emotions."

Houston is recuperating at his Los Angeles home. The condition of his eye was not known.

"I still love all my fans. Please pray for me and know I'll be back with some more hits," Houston said.

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