



ASK DEANNA!
*Real People,
Real Advice*

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

Dear Deanna!

I met a woman who feels that since I asked her out for a date then I'm entitled to pay. I took it upon myself to suggest we each pay for our own meal and take it from there. She canceled the date and doesn't want to see me. She made it worse by calling me cheap. How should this work?

Robert P.
Las Vegas, NV

Dear Robert:

A man that doesn't want to spend his money should be respected just like the fool that wines and dines just to get laid. Women need to learn that some men view money spending dates as an investment. It's the man's choice if he wants to spend his money and the woman's choice if she wants to spend hers. You should discuss these things during the "getting to know you" process. You can certainly separate women's lib when it comes to a woman paying for a date or changing her own flat tire! Find another date and keep it moving.

Dear Deanna!

I'm a 24 year old Black man on the down low for two years now. There are many under cover males that see this as sex instead of a gay thing. Some men I talk to have families. Young kids are doing it now thanks to phone lines and the internet. If this keeps up, HIV will be worse than in Africa because believe it or not, down low brothers is worldwide. Don't you think so?

Down Low Brother
Toledo, OH

Dear DL Brother:

You're honest in admitting your down low lifestyle. This is wrong because women don't deserve the betrayal and sexual risks. You and other down low brothers are simply bi-sexual if you're romancing men and women. HIV is already out of control and can only decrease if the cowardly, selfish and greedy down low brothers keep it real and stop hiding in the closet and putting women at risk.

Dear Deanna!

Whenever times are bad and I have no one to talk to, how do I get comfort from the Bible? I hear people say turn to the Word and read scripture but it doesn't help me. I read but don't feel anything and never see anything happen. How can I get solutions from the Bible if I feel this way?

Sherri
Jacksonville, FL

Dear Sherri:

Your earthly vessel is empty. You need to fill your heart with God's Word, your mind with Faith, and open your soul to the Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Then as you pray and read the Bible, you'll hear the voice of God and recognize His presence as He orders your steps. If you're still in doubt, John Chapter 3 Verse 16 should give you a boost as you realize that God sacrificed his only Son for you, me and others.

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

Oscars generate predictions

Who will win, who deserved to win, who was snubbed

By Kam Williams
Special to Sentinel-Voice

Once a year, I have an opportunity to put my otherwise worthless compendium of cinema knowledge to work for those faithful readers who plan to enter an office Oscar pool. Last year, seven of my nine Academy Award predictions turned out to be correct, including Best Picture, Director and all four acting categories. I only missed on both screenplays, though I did warn, "The scriptwriting categories aren't as easy to handicap."

Because there aren't any prohibitive favorites, except maybe Jamie Foxx for Best Actor, the 2005 Oscars are proving to be particularly challenging to forecast. Thus, before I proceed to offer my best guesses, please permit me to issue a reminder that gambling is illegal, at least technically. So, if you lose your shirt relying on my prognostications, don't call me, call Gambler's Anonymous.

Best Picture

Ray was #1 on my 10 Best List, so obviously that's the film I think deserves to win. Though I did enjoy the excellent "Sideways" and "Finding Neverland," neither of those entries has managed to generate enough buzz to prevail on Oscar night. Thus, this race has shaped up as a close one between two dreadful, but well-hyped movies, "Million Dollar Baby" and "The Aviator." Because "Million Dollar Baby" seems to be suffering from some 11th hour fallout over its insensitivity towards the handicapped, I sadly have to say that "The Aviator" will win, but more by default than by acclaim.

Snubbed: "The Terminal," "A (Ae) Fond Kiss" and "Maria Full of Grace"

Best Director

Since this category is almost always paired with Best Picture, Martin Scorsese will finally get that elusive Oscar. He stands to benefit from the "body of work" sympathy vote, having been nominated a half-dozen times before, but always lost. My personal choice would be Taylor Hackford ("Ray"), but he already has an Oscar, as does Clint Eastwood ("Million Dollar Baby") who deserved to win last year for "Mystic River." Mike Leigh ("Vera Drake") can't expect much when his movie wasn't even nominated, and Alexander

Payne's picture, "Sideways," was essentially a sophisticated sitcom, and the prudish Academy generally doesn't cotton to comedies.

Snubbed: Steven Spielberg ("The Terminal"), Ken Loach ("A Fond Kiss") and Joshua Marston ("Maria Full of Grace")

Best Actor

No mystery here, Jamie Foxx ("Ray") is a shoo-in. John Depp ("Finding Neverland") had the best shot at an upset, but his hopes were dashed when his studio, Miramax, decided to put more marketing money behind "The Aviator" than behind his flick. Don Cheadle ("Hotel Rwanda") has no chance because nobody saw his movie, and Eastwood was simply underwhelming in a sleepwalked role.

Snubbed: Tom Hanks ("The Terminal") and Paul Giamatti ("Sideways")

Best Actress

Unfortunately, the two best performances in this category, namely Catalina Sandino Moreno ("Maria Full of Grace") and Imelda

Staunton ("Vera Drake"), aren't even in the running. I'm projecting 46-year-old Annette Bening as the winner of a sympathy vote for a couple sensible reasons. First, she's been nominated twice before and she's getting to be a little long in the tooth, at least for an actress. Second, Annette's prime competitor is Hilary Swank ("Million Dollar Baby") who beat her out in an "American Beauty"- "Boys Don't Cry" showdown 5 years ago. Hilary still has a puncher's chance while Kate Winslet would have been better off if she'd been up for "Finding Neverland" instead of for the best forgotten "Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind."

Snubbed: Kimberly Elise ("Woman, Thou Art Loosed") and Tea Leoni ("Spanglish")

Best Supporting Actor

Although movie Man-of-the-Year, Jamie Foxx ("Collateral") was easily the best of this bunch, Morgan Freeman ("Million Dollar Baby") will triumph on the "body of work" theory, ala Bening,

because he's been nominated three times before, but ultimately unsuccessful. Neither Alan Alda ("The Aviator") nor Clive Owen ("Closer") have any business being up for anything, though Thomas Haden Church was impressive enough in "Sideways" to warrant consideration for a Best Actor nomination.

Snubbed: Stanley Tucci ("The Terminal"), Freddie Highmore ("Finding Neverland"), Reverend T. D. Jakes ("Woman, Thou Art Loosed") and Kumar Pallana ("The Terminal")

Best Supporting Actress

Though I personally found her portrayal of Katherine Hepburn to be comical, Cate Blanchett ("The Aviator") prevails, here, in a tight race with Natalie Portman ("Closer"). Anticipate Blanchett to benefit from Aviator's overall momentum, while Portman's praiseworthy performance came courtesy of a pretty disappointing production. Sophie Okonedo ("Hotel Rwanda") and Laura Linney ("Kinsey") have each

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