



ASK DEANNA!
*Real People,
Real Advice*

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

Dear Deanna!

There's a guy I like and we really care for each other. The only problem is that I'm in my late 20's and he's in his teens. He's very mature for his age. I really like him and don't know what to do. He can barely go out because his mom is strict and he's always at school. I've never felt this way for someone as young. Can you please help me because I don't know what to do?

Ms. Shy
Online E-Mail

Save yourself some jail time with two words. Statutory Rape. It's against public law and his mother's law for you to date her son who's a minor. He can't drive, make money, or provide emotional support which leaves you with a young stud with milk breath. Wake up and date men in your league. As a last resort see what happens when he becomes legal. However, don't be surprised if he selects girls his age instead of you.

Dear Deanna!

I have two cousins messing with the same guy. One has been with him 5 years and they have kids but I accidentally found out he beats her and threatens her. I didn't know about the other cousin until I was telling her about the beatings and I realized she's messing with him too. I told both of them what's going on and instead of the issue, they talked about me. I lie when I get nervous so when the other cousin asked if I had told on her, I lied and now she's ignoring me. Can I fix this or do I leave it alone?

No More Drama
Toledo, OH

Dear Drama:

This must be a family tree with a rotten apple or a classic episode of Jerry Springer. You've done enough to both cousins by having two faces and gossiping. You should be concerned about the violence and the safety issue instead of who's zooming who. You need to fixing it by telling the truth to whoever you lied to and seek help for that little nerve problem if you're going to be in people's business.

Dear Deanna!

I don't take my 3-year old sons to church with me. However, I end up losing my religion and arguing with my family after church. My family feels they should at least be there in the nursery. I think they're a distraction if in the congregation and the church nursery is a waste of time. Who's right on this issue?

Lois
Tampa, FL

Dear Lois:

Take those kids to church and let them make noise now because if not, you'll find yourself crying at their jail cell later. If you attend church, pay tithes and offerings then you should go ahead and utilize the nursery for your children. Don't be foolish. The nursery has structure that will begin the process of giving you're your toddlers a foundation of Christ. Again, let those boys make their joyful noise unto the Lord.

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'Ghetto' musical traffics in exuberance

NEW YORK (AP) - Cabaret is personal, and things don't get much more intimate than "Ghetto Superstar (The Man That I Am)," Billy Porter's exuberant autobiographical exorcism now on view in Joe's Pub at the Public Theater.

The performer, who appeared on Broadway in such shows as "Miss Saigon," "Five Guys Named Moe" and the 1994 revival of "Grease," lets all his demons hang out in this musical tale of growing up Black and gay in Pittsburgh in the 1970s and early '80s.

A self-described "sissy," Porter was raised by a family of strong women (including a mother who has cerebral palsy). He was beaten up regularly by the neighborhood kids and even molested by his stepfather.

The boy found salvation in singing and play-acting, first in church and later on stage at school, most notably playing Fagin in a production of "Oliver!" "Theater became my church," he says at one point during the show.

In "Ghetto Superstar," Porter's fervor for performing is unstoppable. The evening, directed by Brad Rouse, may run on a bit too long, but the star's energy, whether singing or dancing, never flags.

One high point of the show

is Porter's enthusiasm for the 1981 musical "Dreamgirls," the story of a Supremes-like trio striving for rhythm 'n' blues glory. He even does a rousing imitation of "Dreamgirls" star Jennifer Holliday doing her show-stopping number "And I Am Telling You I'm Not Going." The song is about survival and that's what "Ghetto Superstar" is all about.

Porter certainly has had his share of roadblocks to show-biz success. After his Broadway gigs, he signed a

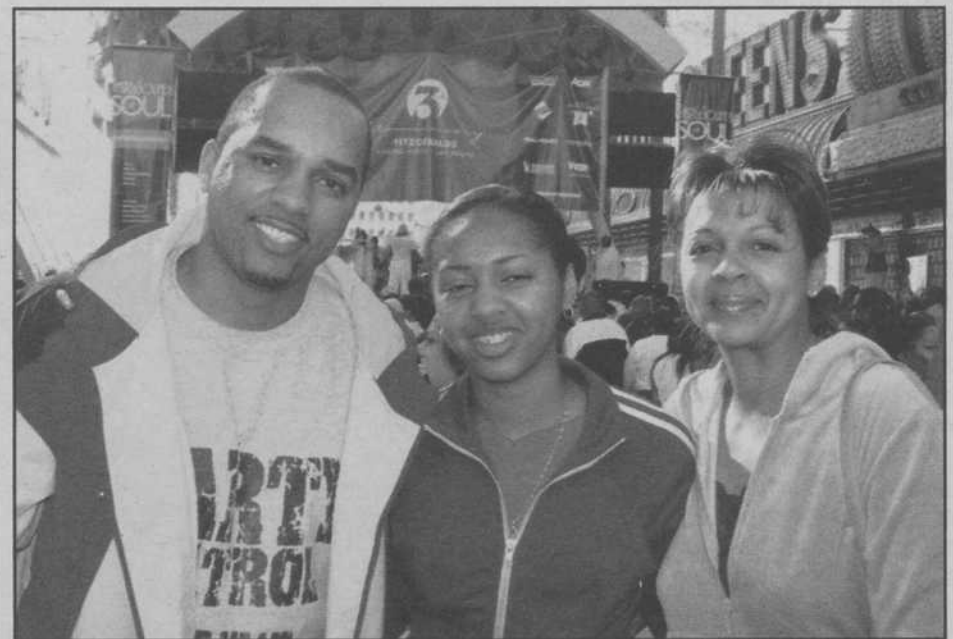
record deal to become "the male Whitney Houston."

Things didn't exactly work out and as his recording career sank, he became determined to make peace with who he was. By then, his stepfather was dead, and there was an uneasy, unspoken truce with his mother.

Porter, done up in dreadlocks and wearing a snappy dark suit that would not be out of place in "Guys and Dolls," has an easy rapport with the audience. His storytelling technique is as-

sured, and his singing, backed up by Sasha Allen and Brandi Chavonne Massey, has lung power to spare.

Several of Porter's own compositions, co-written with several different collaborators, are included in the evening. They show promise, demonstrating a theatrical flair laced with an engaging pop-soul sensibility. "Ghetto Superstar" is more than public therapy for its hardworking star. It's dynamite entertainment for audiences, too.



Sentinel-Voice photo by Ramon Savoy

FAMILY AFFAIR

KLUC 98.5 radio mixologist Rory Mack, left, took some time off from the turntables to enjoy the Fremont Street Experience with his daughter, Acacia McAlister, and her mom, Neise, during downtown's Taste & Sounds of Soul Festival on Feb. 27.

P. Diddy promises drama on 'Making the Band'

NEW YORK (AP) - The last time Sean "P. Diddy" Combs tried to put together a band on MTV, viewers were treated to screaming, fist-cuffs and the dismantling of the group. Though he's not promising any brawls on "Making the Band 3," Diddy vows that the show, which premieres on the network Thursday, will be "packed full of drama and excitement."

Instead of trying to put together a hip-hop band as he did when he assembled the now-defunct Da Band, Diddy is seeking to cast an all-girl singing act. He's aiming for "pop-soul with a dash of hip-hop flavor in it."

Nineteen women will compete for three to five slots in the group; while they're competing, they'll live together in a SoHo loft.

Having more than a dozen women under one roof is part of the drama, Diddy told The Associated Press Wednesday.

"Women are more different than anything, any creature, (any) beautiful animal

in the world. They're just the most complex, different," he said.

"I don't think no human being has been able to just figure out the woman. As complicated as I'm explaining it to you, that's how it is. It's a big undertaking to move 19 young ladies under one roof, and it sets the tone for some good TV ... having their

monthly cycle coming together, and emotions and moodiness and competitiveness."

This isn't the first time Diddy has put together a girl group. Dream, a teen pop-R&B quartet, sold about 1 million copies of their debut album in 2001 but never recorded another.

This time around, Diddy

is trying to avoid the one-hit wonder syndrome.

"I'm trying to find talent, young ladies who can sing and dance, and follow in the footsteps of Beyonce, of Madonna, of Britney Spears, of the Supremes, of TLC," he said. "I'm trying to have a group that can be internationally known and travel all over the world."



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is pleased to announce that its
16th Annual Scholarship Banquet will be held on
Saturday, April 9, 2005 at 6:00pm at the Monte Carlo Resort & Casino.

This year's Keynote Speaker is the Honorable Dennis W. Archer. Judge Archer is the Immediate past president of the American Bar Association, Former Michigan Supreme Court Justice and Former Mayor of Detroit.

Ticket prices are \$75.00 per person or \$700 per table of ten. For more ticket and/or sponsorship information, call (702) 991-9931 or e-mail nbabanquet@yahoo.com