



ASK DEANNA!
*Real People,
Real Advice*

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

Dear Deanna!

I made the decision to leave a 4 year relationship. My boyfriend cheated, lied to me and had other women most of the time we were together. Now that I'm gone, I miss the material things and the easy life I had in exchange for the mistreatment. I want to go back for the sake of having the good life but don't know if I can keep from loving him again. What should I do?

Joanne
Augusta, GA

Dear Joanne:

Obviously, your self-esteem and self-worth are on the ground with your face. Relieve yourself of this gutter relationship and look at it for the dirt that it is. You deserve better, and unless you're a gold digger, you can get a job, pay your own bills and provide for yourself. Trust me, if he treated you like a dog for this long, he'll continue to do so. If you left the relationship safely, go ahead, stay away and keep it moving.

Dear Deanna!

I'm a Christian and I love the Lord. My only downfall with my faith is the fact I keep getting sexually involved with women. I know God forgives me but I keep going back. What am I supposed to do? Because I'm a very sexual person and I want to have my faith, but I also want to fulfill my physical needs. How can I get this balanced?

James T
Benton Harbor, MI

Dear James:

You sound like a good little church boy who lost his Bible. You get balance by praying and seeking a wife so that you won't be sacrificing your soul in the name of lust. This demon has overpowered you. Repent, and seek open and honest counseling from your pastor. It's important that you regain spiritual control, because the burning of your loins will be nothing compared to the eternal sizzle from the lake of fire if you don't get it together.

Dear Deanna!

When I'm trying to express myself, my mother looks at me like I'm crazy. My dad always tells me that I have to listen to him because he says so. I'm very loud and opinionated and feel that my parents don't let me have my say because I'm just a teen. How do I get them to shut up sometimes and listen to me for a change?

Brandy
Los Angeles, CA

Brandy:

You need your mouth slapped if you dare to even think of using the words "shut up" in the same sentence with your parents. You get your parents to listen by approaching and receiving them with dignity, respect and honor as you share your thoughts. You'll be surprised at how much you accomplish this way instead of a teen attitude, which I'm sure you display on your face as well as your tone and body language.

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

Author invited back to America

By Roderick C. Willis
Special to Sentinel-Voice
BALTIMORE (NNPA) - W.E.B. DuBois may have first charted a path as a contemporary intellectual with a revolutionary spirit. Fighting the good fight and making it his mission in life to improve the quality of life for the Black Diaspora, DuBois retreated from America and died in Ghana. Stokely Carmichael, with his fiery oratorical skills, challenged African-Americans to think about their government from another perspective —and then he, too, went into self-imposed exile.

Randall Robinson appears to have followed the same path as DuBois and Carmichael, and explains his frustration with America in his latest book "Quitting America: The Departure of a Black Man From His Native Land." Robinson was invited back to the United States by the African-American Male Leadership Institute and Sojourner-Douglass College to promote his book and lecture on the theme, "Black Leadership at the Crossroads: A Wake-up Call." A reception and book signing was organized at Sojourner-Douglass, and patrons sensed that a certain amount of reverence was in the air. After all, they were in the presence of Randall Robinson, the man who, for so many years, was the conscience of America on the issue of apartheid.

Robinson was the founder, voice and president of TransAfrica, the advocacy group that, since 1977, has consistently challenged the racism of America's foreign policy towards Africa and the Caribbean. Robinson remained president until 2001. His leadership in support of the pro-democracy movement in Haiti included a 27-day hunger strike, causing the United States to lead a 1994 multinational effort that returned to power Haiti's first democratically elected, but violently overthrown, government. It was Robinson who had been a prolific writer and dared talk about America's racism and fascist tendencies in the international arena. In a nutshell, the group felt like they were in the presence of an African-American hero and a true champion for human rights.

As Robinson met Charles Simmons, president of Sojourner-Douglass College, both men appeared to have great respect for one another.

It was as if two heavyweights were meeting —not to spar, but to exchange their status reports on the state of the Black Diaspora. It was as if kindred spirits, two Pan-African intellectuals taking different paths to accomplish the same objective for their people, had met. Robinson asked Simmons how the college was progressing. Simmons responded by revealing to Robinson the fact that Sojourner-Douglass has a true Pan-African mission, with a campus in the Bahamas and another coming to the U.S. Virgin Islands. Perhaps their parallel philosophy and outlook was the reason Robinson accepted the invitation.

As the reception concluded, there was great anticipation and excitement about what Robinson might say.

In a very concise manner, Robinson dissected segments of American society from a historical perspective and talked about the economics of slavery. According to Robinson, slavery was a racist institution, but it was also part of the economic fabric

of this nation.

Among other topics, Robinson warned the audience that Black leadership must examine laws and policies that impact African-Americans as a people, especially the construction of new prisons. "The prison industrial complex is the new form of slavery for African-Americans," said Robinson. "A disproportionate number of African-Americans are in America's prisons, and the United States has more prisoners behind bars than any other industrial nation. If we are not careful, a generation of our young people may be headed for those institutions to re-enslave us." A quote from one of Robinson's previous books, "The Reckoning," perhaps expressed his sentiments more profoundly.

"Young urban [Blacks] are being destroyed in our streets, schools and jails in alarming numbers. Yet, little more than a whimper has issued from [Black] leadership. We lament racial profiling, as indeed we should. But we appear to do this without understanding that racial profiling is the tree, not

the forest." Robinson also admonished attendees to not take their culture for granted.


Culture is not something "you can put on like a garment," exclaimed Robinson.

"Culture is something that we as a people must pass down from one generation to another. It must be taught consistently, not just in the schools but also as a part of what our children learn at home. Without such a concerted effort, African-American children will not know who they are or, more fundamentally, where they are going."

Richard A. Rowe, executive director of the African-American Male Leadership Institute, led the effort to get Robinson to return to America to speak and promote his latest book.

"We have been blessed to have heard Randall Robinson present here today," said Rowe. "He has given us much to think about, and we hopefully sound a call to action for Black leadership to address our nation's many problems."

Roderick C. Willis writes for the Afro Newspapers.



TRANSPORTATION NOTICE

Potential Transportation Improvements to the I-15 Corridor from Tropicana Avenue to Sloan Road

Purpose of Meeting:
The Nevada Department of Transportation, in cooperation with the Federal Highway Administration, is studying potential transportation improvements to the Interstate 15 (I-15) corridor from Tropicana Avenue to the Sloan Road interchange, in addition to conducting an assessment of the proposed project's impacts in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act. A public meeting will be held to provide project information and receive public comments concerning the environmental and engineering studies for the proposed project. Some current alternatives to be studied include the addition of general-purpose lanes, High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) lanes, collector-distributor roads, frontage roads and alternate route and transit solutions. Environmental impact studies regarding noise and air quality also will be completed.

When and Where:
May 5, 2005
4 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Enterprise Library
25 E. Shelbourne Ave.
Las Vegas, NV

Where You Come In:
Members of the public are invited to attend the meeting at their convenience anytime between 4 p.m. and 7 p.m. to submit comments verbally to a court reporter or in writing on a comment sheet provided at the meeting. A formal presentation will not be held as this open format increases the opportunity to submit public comments while providing a venue for one-on-one discussions with project staff. In addition to any comments received at the Public Information Meeting, written comments also will be accepted until 5 p.m., Friday, May 20, 2005. Please submit your comments to: Daryl N. James, P.E., Chief Environmental Services Division, Nevada Department of Transportation, 1263 South Stewart Street, Carson City, NV 89712 or via telephone at (775) 888-7013. General information about the Public Information Meeting can be obtained from the NDOT I-15 South Project Office, 840 Grier Drive, Ste. 140, Las Vegas, NV 89119, telephone (702) 387-2854. Certain project materials are available in alternative formats upon request.