



ASK DEANNA!
*Real People,
Real Advice*

Ask Deanna! is a column known for its fearless approach to reality-based subjects!

Dear Deanna!

I'm 18-years-old and trying to decide whom to spend the rest of my life with. I have one guy that gives me anything I want and respects me. He's there when I need him, but he cheats. I have another guy that's also the same, but he threatens me by saying if I do a certain thing, he'll slap or punch me. I worry about cheating with one and being hit by the other. How do I choose?

Lost
Online Reader

Dear Lost:

Get rid of these immature boys and choose yourself. A real man wouldn't cheat or beat on you. At your age, you haven't had time to smell yourself much less think about whom to spend your lifetime with. You deserve more than these drop shots are giving you. Take advantage of your youth and work on your values, your education and career, and a deserving man will cross your path in due time.

Dear Deanna!

I used to brag about being the world's best lover. I was a man that used women to make myself feel better. I played mind games, lied and had three or four girlfriends at a time. I now find myself saved and lonely because people that know me still judge me, and women won't give me a chance because of my past. How do I change this?

Johnny W.
Houston, TX

Dear Johnny:

You've reaped what you sowed. You had no business treating women like dirt. Being saved doesn't protect you from your nasty past life. You're still going to pay for your deeds, and you can only move forward by being consistent. You didn't become a doggy lover overnight and your reputation won't be fixed overnight. Stay on the right path by living a God filled life and your light will soon shine bright.

Dear Deanna!

I'm in high school and losing my mind as I write this letter. My sister lives at home and my mom makes me watch her kids all the time. I can't get my homework done, my grades are falling, and I'm trying to get a scholarship so I can get out of this mess. I want more for myself, but I don't know how to tell my mother because she doesn't seem to care.

Dawn
Memphis, TN

Dear Dawn:

Your sister is a victim of the generational welfare chain. You're heading in the right direction by wanting to make something of yourself and not relying on the system with a bunch of fatherless kids. Voice your opinions to your mom as you strategically get her involved with your schoolwork. Once she sees your grades and your aspirations for a successful future, she should change her ways and help you achieve.

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Minority-owned PBS stations on alert

By Makebra M. Anderson
Special to Sentinel-Voice
WASHINGTON (NNPA)

-After some serious political hustle and tussle, the U.S. House of Representatives voted to restore \$100 million to the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, the group that provides funding for hundreds of local stations. However, if that action isn't matched by the Senate, minority-owned stations will suffer the most, industry professionals say.

"We'd be crazy not to be worried, but my station, more so than most, is in a position to withstand this threat. The stations that are perhaps most severely attacked by this proposition are rural and small stations and, in particular, African-American stations," Maxie Jackson, program director for WETA-FM in Maryland said. "There are

not too many African-American public stations, and they are in serious jeopardy when threats like this go about because they are much more dependent on this funding than my company."

Things are different from the way they were in 1967, when Congress created the organization to serve as a buffer between politics and independent stations. In an effort led by current chairman Kenneth Tomlinson — whom many consider a far-right political activist — public broadcasting stands to lose almost \$200 million in funding next year.

For large stations, that means less than 15 percent of their budget would vanish. However, for small stations such as Black-owned WHUT-TV in Washington, D.C., it could mean the station would have to close its

doors.

"WHUT... needs support... to continue bringing you programming that is enriching, educational, informative as well as entertaining. WHUT must pay for the programs you see from programming sources such as PBS, APT and independent producers. If membership support went away, so would WHUT," the station said in a statement.

And there are so many people that depend on and deeply appreciate the service that WHUT provides day after day. We know this because our viewers tell us so."

A small victory came when the U.S. House of Representatives voted 284-140 to restore \$100 million to the corporation's 2006 budget. Nonetheless, still gone is \$39.6 million to maintain the satellite system used to dis-

tribute programs, \$38.4 million for digital conversion, which is mandated by the FCC and \$23 million for children services such as "Ready To Learn," which provides on-air, online, and print resources to help parents and educators prepare children for school.

Timothy Karr, campaign director of Free Press, an organization that is working to increase public participation in crucial media policy debates, agrees that there has been some success, but according to him, there is a much bigger problem:

"This is an institution that was set up to act as a buffer between the political agendas in Washington and the type of programs that are produced for PBS," Karr said. "Last week was a very active week on the funding side, but

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Vandross

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Vandross was a four-time Grammy winner in the best male R&B performance category, taking home the trophy in 1990 for the single "Here and Now," in 1991 for his album "Power of Love," in 1996 for the track "Your Secret Love" and a last time for "Dance With My Father."

The album, with its single of the same name, debuted at No. 1 on the Billboard charts while Vandross remained hospitalized from his stroke. It was the first time a Vandross album had topped the charts in its first week of release.

In 2005, he was nominated for a Soul Train Music Award for a duet with Beyonce on "The Closer I Get To You."

Vandross' sound was so unusual few tried to copy it; even fewer could. "I'm proud of that — it's one of the things that I'm most proud of," he told The Associated Press in a 2001 interview. "I was never compared to anyone in terms of sound."

A career in music seemed predestined for Vandross; both his parents were singers, and his sister, Patricia, was part of a 1950s group called the Crests.

But the New York native happily toiled in the musical background for years before he would have his first hit. He wrote songs for projects as varied as a David Bowie album ("Fascination") and the Broadway musical "The Wiz" ("Everybody Rejoice [Brand New Day]"), sang

backup for acts such as Donna Summer and Barbra Streisand, and even became a leading commercial jingle singer.

Vandross credited Flack for prodding him to move into the spotlight after listening to one of his future hits, "Never Too Much."

"She started crying," he recalled. "She said, 'No, you're getting too comfortable (in the background)...I'm going to introduce you to some people and get your career started.'"

Vandross' first big hit came as the lead vocalist for the group Change, with their 1980 hit, "The Glow of Love." That led to a recording contract with Epic Records, and in 1981, he made his solo recording debut with the disc "Never Too Much." The album, which contained his aching rendition of "A House is Not a

Home," became an instant classic.

Over the years, Vandross would emerge as the leading romantic singer of his generation, racking up one platinum album after another and charting several R&B hits, such as "Superstar," "Give Me The Reason" and "Love Won't Let Me Wait."

Yet, while Vandross was a household name in the Black community, he was frustrated by his failure to become a mainstream pop star. Indeed, it took Vandross until 1990 to score his first top 10 hit — the wedding staple "Here & Now."

"I just wanted more success. I didn't want to suddenly start wearing blond wigs to appeal to anyone," he told the AP.

"This is the same voice that sang Pepsi-Cola, Coca-Cola, NBC 'proud as a peacock,'... America, the world,

has heard the voice, so there's no reason that that music shouldn't have gone the complete distance, I mean, to number one."

Another frustration for Vandross was his lifelong battle with obesity. Health problems ran in his family, and Vandross struggled for years to control his waistline. When he first became a star, he was a hefty size; a few years later, he was almost skinny. His weight fluctuated so much that rumors swirled that he had more serious health problems than the hypertension and diabetes caused by his large frame.

Vandross' two sisters and a brother died before him. The lifelong bachelor never had any children, but doted on his nieces and nephews. The entertainer said his busy lifestyle made marriage difficult; besides, it wasn't what he wanted.

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