



ASK DEANNA!
*Real People,
Real Advice*

Ask Deanna! Is an advice column known for it's fearless approach to reality-based subjects.

Dear Deanna!

Why isn't it okay for me to have a steady boyfriend and have other men in my life as friends? I know who I love and who I want to be with and feel other men are the same as girlfriends. My relationship is great, but my boyfriend has a problem with me going on dates with my male friends. Is there a reason he feels this way, because he's not an insecure person?

Rolonda
Richmond, VA

Dear Rolonda:

If the shoe were on the other foot you would try to throw yourself from a bridge over this. It's disrespectful to go on dates with other men. Like all guys, your male friends would look at you with thoughts, hope and desires for intimacy and your boyfriend knows this. Don't be foolish and mess up your relationship by being greedy. You can keep your male friends, but socialize within reason and you know exactly what that means.

Dear Deanna!

I'm trying to keep my 17-year-old cousin from getting pregnant. I'm not much older than she is but she's planning to have a baby and force her boyfriend to get married. I know there's no hope for their relationship but she's willing to do anything to get him back. What can I say to make her change her mind?

Antoinette
Portland, OR

Dear Antoinette:

I commend you for trying to spare taxpayers from paying for this unwanted child. Show your cousin a few stomachs with stretch marks and a few deadbeat dad posters that will become her reality if she has a baby by this boy who doesn't want her. This is a start that'll change her mind but can be strengthened by steady prayer, getting her parents involved and visiting a teen counselor or the www.teensadvisor.com website.

Dear Deanna!

I just found out about my brother messing around with my girlfriend. I tell him everything about my girlfriend, our relationship and everything else. I feel like beating him up because he knows how I feel about him and how much I love my girlfriend. I know I have to choose my brother, but I don't know what to do about my girlfriend.

James
Dallas, TX

Dear James:

This woman isn't your wife, and as a cheater, she's not worth going to jail over. It takes two for a tango and both of these people are wrong. Blood is thicker than water, so you need to get rid of the girlfriend and dialogue and rebuild trust with your brother. It's going to be hard, but your brother is your brother. In the future, don't talk too much about your goodies because others will want a taste.

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KEEPING THE FAITH

Sen. Harry Reid, D-Nev., left, welcomes Dr. Percell Church Jr., senior pastor of the Zion United Methodist Church located in North Las Vegas to his capitol office. Church delivered the Senate's opening prayer on Friday.

NUL

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ers once arrested, and a Black person's average jail sentence is six months longer than a White's for the same crime — 39 months versus 33 months.

In addition, the unemployment rate remains in double digits for Blacks, currently at 10.3 percent, more than twice the rate for Whites at 4.3.

Instead of big-name politicians, such as Bush, who spoke at NUL conventions last year, in 2003 and in 2001, grassroots activists and civil rights leaders such as Rainbow/PUSH coalition's Jesse Jackson Sr., National Action Network's Al Sharpton, the NAACP's Bruce Gordon, former NUL President and CEO Hugh Price, and activist Dick Gregory will speak at plenary sessions.

Among discussions will be topics such as the plight of Black males, entrepreneurship and business development, Africa, and a plenary session on history as well as the future of the civil rights struggle.

In looking inward, the National Urban League panels will determine what demands should be put on government and what demands the Black community must place on itself.

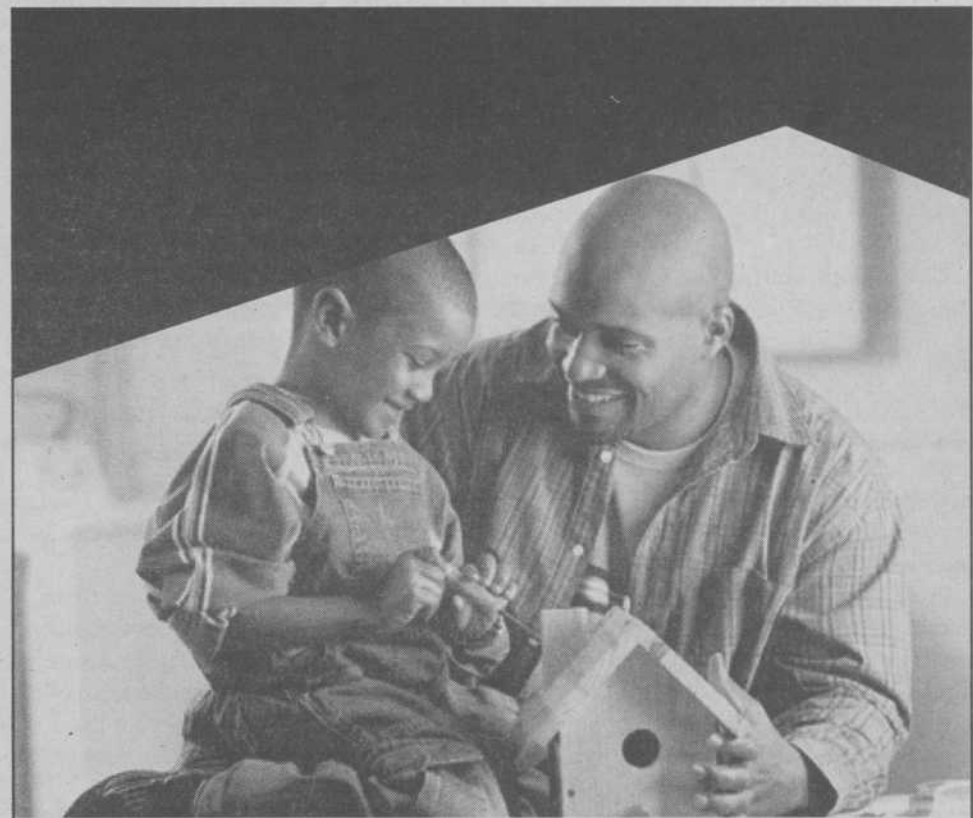
"When it comes to jobs, we must sharpen our skills and raise children with an emphasis on education, not just school districts educating, but making sure they read and go to school every

day. We must realize the importance of homeownership and sacrifice some things to accomplish that," Morial explained.

"It's going to be a great conference," Morial said.

"Black people are at a point where we have to place demands on the institutions in American life, and we have to place demands on ourselves... It's not a one-way street. It's a two-way street

for us. And I think we should not be afraid to say we've got to make demands on our government; we've got to make demands on the private sector, but we've got to make demands on ourselves, too."



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