



## ASK DEANNA! Real People, Real Advice

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

Dear Deanna!

When should a parent realize their children have rights? I don't have children, but my sister never allows her teens room to express themselves. They often disagree and during an argument she always tells them to stop having attitudes. I don't see what the problem is and feel she should respect them more.

Katina  
Newark, NJ

Dear Katina:

Children have rights when they move out, get a job and pay their own bills. Teens are special creatures that can never be understood and often have attitudes because that's what teens do. On that note, as a non-parent, I suggest you see yourself out of your sisters A and B conversation and let her handle her business.

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Dear Deanna!

I'm 34 and date older women. I have no motives behind my preference. I simply appreciate these women that have old-school values. Recently, I have fallen for a younger woman, but I find myself dealing with a lot of frustrations. She's not where I feel she should be mentally when it comes to friends, money, and marriage. Am I comparing her to my past relationships, or am I just set in old-school ways?

Regretting  
Online Reader

Dear Regretting:

You're very mature, and you've learned a lot from the older women you've dated, and that's a good thing. With your age, wisdom and old-school mentality, a small group of younger women can only offer you visual and physical stimulation that becomes old after a while. If you want more stability and structure, stick with what you know — unless you have time to be stressed trying to teach a young girl new tricks.

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Dear Deanna!

I met a guy a few years ago and we really felt a spark. I was dating someone else but dumped him for the new guy. He had also met another female at the same time. As luck would have it, I said or did something that spooked him and he started dating the other lady. I went on with my life. After two years of staying in touch, his relationship ended and he's back. He's still friendly with this ex-girlfriend, and I'm scared to go back for fear he'll do the same thing again. What do I do?

Feeling Squirrelly  
Sacramento, CA

Dear Squirrelly:

This isn't the only man you can have a relationship with and I suggest you look elsewhere. If he dumped you the first time for someone else, he'll do it again. However, if you're still feeling the spark, observe him much closer and take your time before getting too serious. A woman's sixth sense is real. If your gut feeling is telling you to run or something's not right, spare yourself some pain and follow your instincts.

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# Sunday morning talk shows lack color

By George E. Curry  
Special to Sentinel-Voice  
WASHINGTON (NNPA)

- More than 68 percent of Sunday morning network and cable talk shows have no Black guests and those that do, use only three people — Condoleezza Rice, Colin Powell and Juan Williams — more than two-thirds of the time, a study by the National Urban League Policy Institute has disclosed.

The report, titled "Sunday Morning Apartheid" was made public by the National Urban League this week.

"In 1958, Martin Luther

King wrote: 'It is appalling that the most segregated hour of Christian America is eleven o'clock on Sunday morning.' Today, nearly 50 years after Dr. King's incisive observation about America's churches, we are facing another form of Sunday morning apartheid: the Sunday morning talk shows," the report states.

The Urban League monitored the talk shows for an 18-month period, from January 1, 2004, through June 30, 2005. During that period, it studied the five Sunday morning political talk shows:

"This Week" with George Stephanopoulos (ABC); "Face the Nation" (CBS); "Late Edition" (CNN); "Fox News Sunday" (FOX), and "Meet the Press" (NBC).

Among its findings:

- 61 percent of all Sunday morning talk shows feature no Black guests;

- 78 percent of the broadcasts contained no interviews with Black guests;

- 8 percent of the guest appearances on the Sunday morning talk shows are by Black guests;

- Of more than 2,100 guest appearances studied, only 176 have been by Black guests. And three guests — Rice, Powell and Juan Williams — account for 122 of the 176 appearance;

- Appearances by guests other than Rice, Powell and Williams account for less than 3 percent of all guest appearances on Sunday morning talk shows;

- Three of the four programs presenting political roundtable discussion had no Blacks in their roundtable discussion in more than 85 percent of the broadcasts.

The idea of using only several hand-picked African-

Americans was also reflected in the selection of Congressional Black Caucus members chosen to appear on the talk shows.

"Of the more than 75 Senators and House Members who appeared as guests, only three — Charles Rangel, Jesse Jackson Jr. and Harold Ford Jr. — were Black," the report notes. "None of the other 40 members of the Congressional Black Caucus appeared on any of these programs during the 18-month period studied."

Sunday talk shows are important because they are a source of news; they help the public understand and interpret politics and government; and they signal what is news and who the newsmakers are, the report says.

"The exclusion of African-American voices is not unique to Sunday morning talk shows," the study observes.

"With few exceptions, the television news outlets regularly fail to adequately include African-Americans, other minorities and women in the vast majority of their news programming."

## BET

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Calloway said he was offered a very brief extension — no more than three months. He felt he was being given a message.

"After five years of growing the show to what it is today, it was basically a no-brainer situation," he said.

Hill, BET's executive vice president for music and entertainment programming, said Calloway was never told he wasn't wanted. He would not discuss specifics of contract talks. "His announcement to leave was a surprise because we were in the process of negotiations to retain him, as we were with Free," Hill said.

Said Calloway: "If you're trying to aggressively keep someone, you don't offer them a month-to-month contract."

Free, whose given name is Marie Wright, did not immediately respond to an e-mail message for comment.

The move prompted an outcry from fans of "106 & Park," which is continuing and may soon audition replacement VJs.

"I assumed we were going to get a number of calls, but we've actually gotten an overwhelming amount of phone calls and e-mail," said BET spokeswoman Marcy Polanco. "A lot of them have been from parents."

Hill said the two hosts "gave an amazing face to our video programming and our programming in general. A.J. and Free are stars, absolutely are stars."

Calloway said he's looking to stay in show business. He's opening a restaurant in Brooklyn this fall. "I love and respect them for the opportunity they have given me," he said. "It's just it's a hard exit. Nothing lasts forever."

Black Entertainment Television is the major compo-

nent of the BET brand and the largest national cable network with programming targeted to African-Americans. Its viewing audience is more than 90 million subscribers, according to Viacom its parent company.

In addition to its cable program, BET includes digital networks BET Jazz; The Jazz Channel, a 24-hour network devoted to jazz music; BET Gospel; BET Pictures, and BET.com a major online destination.



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