



**ASK DEANNA!**  
*Real People,  
Real Advice*

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

Dear Deanna!

I used to hang out, party and have a good time, by any means necessary. Later on, I had a terrible car accident and I decided to change my life. I got saved and started doing church work. The problem is my friends. I still go to clubs, but I don't drink alcohol, and we still have a good time as if things haven't changed. My church community is giving me a hard time because it looks like I'm a hypocrite. Am I wrong?

Confused Christian  
(Charlotte, NC)

Dear Confused:

Yes, you're wrong. Look at your situation like a pregnancy. You're either pregnant or not; there's no in-between. In your case, instead of clubbing with your friends, you should be sharing the word of God with them and helping them turn their lives around. Your resistance may be strong now, but like it says in I Corinthians Chapter 15 Verse 33, do not be fooled, bad company ruins good character.

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Dear Deanna!

I'm single and often use the excuse about good men not being available. Each time I get into a relationship, I find so many little things that annoy me. I want to be in a relationship but don't know how to stop being so judgmental. How do you suggest I handle this problem?

Meia  
(Oklahoma City, OK)

Dear Meia:

You need to learn to love yourself. Obviously you have some self-esteem issues that make you feel as if you're not worthy. This causes you to go into denial with your shortcomings and find fault with others. You handle this problem by identifying and resolving your personal issues before you get another person tangled in your mess. Invest in yourself by seeking therapy with a professional counselor, and keep it moving.

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Dear Deanna!

My wife has turned into another person. Before we got married, she was submissive; she served me and did all things that were pleasing. A few months after the wedding, she quit her job, the house stays dirty and each time I ask for something, we have an argument. Is it just me, or do all men have this problem with their new wives?

Ken  
(Denver, CO)

Dear Ken:

There are a few women who believe in hiding their flaws until after the wedding. As newlyweds, you have a communication problem that can be fixed with simple dialogue. Have a discussion and point out the problem areas and seek a solution together. If she's sincerely the woman you fell in love with and married, you'll be fine. If she turns out to be the Bride of Frankenstein, then you have a new story to deal with.

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

# Motley traiblazed in judicial realm

By Talibah Chikwendu  
Special to Sentinel-Voice  
BALTIMORE (NNPA) -

In a speech, Federal Magistrate Judge Randolph Treece said, "Judge Motley was a legal luminary and legendary civil rights advocate who stood shoulder to shoulder with Marshall, Hastie, Robinson, Greenberg and others to secure for us equal protection of the law and to strike a blow to the repressive notion of separate but equal."

Judge Baker was born in New Haven, Conn., one of 12 children. She started her education at Fisk University after receiving financial assistance from Clarence Blakelee, a wealthy contractor who offered his help after glimpsing her superior intellect. She later transferred to New York University and graduated in 1943 then began Columbia Law School the following year.

During her studies at Columbia, she met Thurgood Marshall, who later became her mentor and opened many doors for her. He hired her as a law clerk at the NAACP while she was still attending law school. When she graduated, she became the first woman attorney hired by the



Constance Baker Motley

NAACP. While there, Marshall included Motley in every major civil litigation pursued by the organization. She even helped write the Brown v Board of Education brief. She served the NAACP for 21 years and obtained in that time a success in the appellate courts that rivaled that of Marshall.

In 1964, she was the first Black woman elected to the New York State Senate. In 1965 she was elected to the New York City Council and then elected to serve as the Manhattan borough president. When Thurgood Marshall vacated his seat on the Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit to become the U.S. Solicitor General, President Johnson nominated Motley to replace him. How-

ever, public outcry against her was so horrific that her nomination was withdrawn. Later that same year, Johnson nominated her for District Court in the Southern District of New York. While there was still public opposition to the nomination and her confirmation was delayed, she did finally become the first Black woman District Court judge in the nation and the first woman judge in the Southern District. She was later the first woman appointed as a chief judge of a

federal court in the nation. In 2003, when she received the Spingarn Medal, the NAACP's highest honor, Board Chairman Julian Bond said, "In a distinguished legal career, Judge Constance Baker Motley broke down barriers almost every day. She participated in the NAACP's most important cases. Her legal brilliance illuminated many dark courtrooms where justice was denied and let its light shine in."

Talibah Chikwendu writes for Afro Newspapers.

## 'Idol' alumnus Fantasia reveals she's illiterate

NEW YORK (AP) - "American Idol" winner Fantasia Barrino reveals in her memoirs that she is functionally illiterate and had to fake her way through some scripted portions of the televised talent show, which she won in 2004.

"You're illiterate to just about everything. You don't want to misspell," Fantasia told ABC's "20/20." "So that, for me, kept me in a box and I didn't, wouldn't come out."

The 21-year-old R&B singer says she's signed record deals and contracts that she didn't read and couldn't understand. But the hardest part, she said, is not being able to read to Zion, her 4-year-old daughter. "That hurts really bad," she said, adding that she is now learning to read with tutors.

In her memoir, "Life is Not a Fairy Tale," which she dictated to a freelance writer, Fantasia also said she was raped in the ninth grade by a classmate. She said the boy was disciplined, but she blamed herself for the attack.

She dropped out of high school that year and became an unwed mother at 17.

## Wilson

(Continued from Page 2)

they cannot make the connection with their grandparents — and, therefore, the connection with their political history in America."

When "Fences" was optioned as a movie, Wilson proved that he had not lost his connection to his community by demanding that an African-American be hired to direct the movie.

In an interview with Spin magazine, he said: "I am not carrying the banner for Black directors. I think they should carry their own. I am not trying to get work for Black directors. I am trying to get the film of my play made in the best possible way. I declined a White director not on the basis of race but on the basis of culture. White directors are not qualified for the job.

The job requires someone who shares the specifics of the culture of Black Americans."

The film was never made, and Wilson never apologized for concentrating on the Black experience.

"In my own work, what I hope to do is to place the tradition of Black American culture, to demonstrate its ability to sustain us," he explained.

"We have a ground that is specific, that is peculiarly ours, that we can stand on, which gives us a world view, to look at the world and to comment on it. I'm just trying to place that culture on stage and to demonstrate its existence and maybe, also, indicate some directions toward which we as a people might possibly move."



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