



## ASK DEANNA! Real People, Real Advice

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

Dear Deanna!

I'm from a faith-based family and we don't celebrate Halloween. My children are having a hard time understanding why I won't buy them crazy costumes and I make them go to church on Halloween night. My husband thinks I should give in and let them celebrate with other children. I disagree and this is causing arguments between us. What should I do about this stupid holiday that's wrecking my marriage?

Monique  
Detroit, MI

Dear Monique:

Your husband is being just as foolish as other parents that waste money and dress their kids like, ghosts, goblins and devils. This is a celebration of the Devil and the arguments between you and your husband is confirmation of the enemy causing problems. You're doing the right thing by not giving in. It's only one day and your husband will get over it and should save his money and go to church with you.

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Dear Deanna!

I've been seeing a nice lady for a while but her spending habits bother me. She spends money in a reckless way and acts as if money grows on trees. I made the mistake of always paying and always being financially responsible. Her electricity was disconnected but she went and purchased new shoes after I paid her bill. This relationship can't go any further until I address this, but I don't know how.

James C.  
Birmingham, AL

Dear James:

I don't want to burst your bubble, but you may have an undercover gold digger on your hands. Dating requires financial responsibility and equal spending. Instead of trying to be an impressive big spender, you should've been wise and let the lady share some of the expenses along the way. You need to keep it real and let her know that she needs to get her money in check, express your feelings and keep it moving.

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Dear Deanna!

My girlfriend slapped me so hard that she cut my lip and I started bleeding. It made me so mad that I slapped her. She called the police and accused me of beating her and I went to jail for three days. I broke up with her because she didn't tell the police that I hit her for calling my mother out of her name. She wants to get back with me,, but I'm just not feeling it. What should I do?

Anonymous  
San Bernardino, CA

Dear Anonymous:

Mothers are on the second line of elevation after God but you should've walked away instead of reacting in a physical manner. However, any woman that will send a man to jail out of spite deserves to be alone. This woman told an ugly lie that will haunt you for a long time. You should enjoy your freedom and realize there are other fish in the sea.

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

# Venezuela seeks U.S. friendship

By Lorenzo E. Martin  
Special to Sentinel-Voice  
CHICAGO (NNPA) - Venezuela officials recently met in Chicago to announce help with energy resources and to forge a new relationship with the Latino and other impoverished communities in the city.

The meeting was held at the at the River East Art Center on East Illinois Street where breakfast and an impressive multi-media exposition of Venezuelan culture, social development, baseball, oil, tourism, trade and investment was displayed in living color and sounds.

Because of the devastation created by Hurricane Katrina, The Venezuelan Government, under the leadership of its Ambassador to the United States, Bernard Alvarez and CITGO CEO Felix Rodriguez, went into action by providing relief and help as a good corporate partner.

"We chose Chicago because of its strong Hispanic and Latino communities that needed help," Rodriguez said.

Chicago Consul General, Martin E. Sanchez said CITGO will also provide eye care and other health related services by flying those individuals in need to Venezuela for operations and returning them to Chicago, all free of charge.

Sanchez also stressed working with organizations and developing initiatives for improving community organizations and neighborhoods. We are working out a way to provide cheap gas to bus companies who are serving our neighborhoods and other nonprofit organizations.

"We are trying to help the poor in Venezuela and the U.S.," continued Sanchez.

The Consulate General talked about a CITGO refinery located thirty miles south of Chicago which is wholly owned by the Venezuelan National Oil Company, Petroleos de Venezuela (PDVSA). CITGO is one of America's largest refiners of gasoline and other petroleum products and is the fourth leading exporter of oil to the U.S.

Venezuela is one of the most important suppliers of crude oil and gasoline for American consumers and industry, accounting for about 15 percent of its petroleum imports.

As CEO of CITGO, Rodriguez said, "the best

way to help is through our markets and providing business and opportunities through our 2,000 plus stations throughout the U.S."

It is what Standard News Director David N. Johnson called being a corporate partner.

Going back to the theme of the program, Venezuela Matters, Alvarez said, "This is no propaganda or a media happening; this is for real and we are here to make a difference in our poorer communities. We are the third trading partner to the U.S. and the 16th world wide," added the ambassador.

The ambassador said to expand opportunity for all, 1.2 million illiterate adults have been taught to read and write as secondary education has been made available to 250,000 children whose social status excluded them for this privilege in the past.

This has all been made possible by increasing oil revenue spending on social programs from \$40 million to \$1.7 billion where millions of Venezuelans have access not only to education but also to essentials such as food, hous-

ing and health care.

In fact, 12.5 percent of the GDP has been destined for the financing of social programs. Three distinct funds have been created to finance infrastructure, agriculture, and the various social missions (education, health, micro-financing, etc.).

These programs are not seen as hand outs but alienable rights of all citizens while PDVSA still makes oil profits.

Consulate General Sanchez is very proud of Venezuela's baseball accomplishments. It is one of the country's national pastimes placing 65 Venezuelans in the Major Leagues and boasting more than 1,000 in the whole system of baseball.

And everyone can look at the Chicago White Sox's manager Ozzie Guillen who is a proud Venezuelan manager and winner of the World Series. He said he is proud of the Latin players and especially one of its stars, Luis Aparicio.

One of the hidden gems of Venezuela is its proud heritage of its African, Spanish, Indian and Mestizos. This

has been attested to by President Hugo Chavez, Felix Rodriguez and Chicago Consul General Martin Sanchez.

Sanchez said it wasn't always that way, but after a delegation of African-Americans met in Venezuela and through discussion were able to begin the process of improving the conditions of the Afro-Venezuelans.

Today, Jesus Garcia, an Afro-Venezuelan is director of the Red De Organizaciones Afrovenezolanas (The Afro Venezuelan Network). The Afro-Venezuelans make up to 30 percent of the total population.

Garcia and the delegation met at Operation PUSH where he praised the likes of Walter Rodney, Noam Chomsky, Jesse Jackson and Marcus M. Garvey.

The rest of the conference concentrated on addressing poverty and healthcare in Venezuela, civil rights and the Afro-Venezuelan movement, Venezuela-U.S. strategic relations and investment opportunities.

Lorenzo E. Martin writes for the Illinois-based Chicago Standard Newspapers.

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