



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

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

Dear Deanna!

My boyfriend gets mad when I disagree with him. He wants me to do everything he says. If I disobey he turns on me and claims my behavior is what causes him to act a certain way. He needs to understand that I have feelings for him. Do you think he cares for me? Because I feel as if I'm being used.

Confused

Anonymous Online Reader

Dear Confused:

You've allowed your boyfriend to brainwash you into thinking you're a dog. No human being should be manipulated this way for the sake of having a relationship. It's obvious he doesn't respect you or care too much about you. At the end of the day, if you feel as if you're being used, you probably are. The writing's on the wall and I suggest you read it and get the hint loud and clear.

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Dear Deanna!

I'm a 49-year-old man with a rather unusual problem. I simply enjoy watching women with beautiful feet. Is there any advice you could give me about this problem? I know there are other men out there with this problem. If you could share some advice about this, it would be extremely helpful. I have been like this since I was a young boy.

Michael

Denver, CO

Dear Michael:

The fascination you speak of is a mild form of Pedal Paraphilia, which is a psychological obsession with feet, stockings, socks and shoes. Your infatuation with women's feet, although sick, is harmless as long as you don't invade anyone's privacy or personal space by getting physical. If this affects your personal life and ability to function, seek professional help immediately.

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Dear Deanna!

I noticed that since high school my friend list has been reduced. I'm now 30 years old with no friends. I've put a lot of strain on my husband due to not having anyone but him. When he goes out with the guys, he looks at me and knows how much I want a friend. He'll cancel his plans and we'll do a girly thing like shop or see a movie. Other than work and church, how can I make new friends?

Friendless

Anonymous On-Line Reader

Dear Friendless:

Get out of the house, join the gym, go the library and do something with yourself other than complain and stay under your husband. You can make new friends by talking to people while in line at a restaurant, talk to women at the hair salon or join a book club. You've outgrown your friends, which is common, and now you can start a new circle of friends who do some of the same things you enjoy. Stop being scared and keep it moving.

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# Soap star Reynolds makes history

By Paul Pratt

*Special to Sentinel-Voice*  
SACRAMENTO, Calif. (NNPA) - A familiar face of daytime television, James Reynolds was first introduced to soap operas by his aunts.

"Growing up, I remember my aunts always talking about their stories," Reynolds said. "They talked about their stories like the people were real. Only later did I realize they were talking about television characters."

Now, decades later, fans around the world talk about Reynolds and his role as Detective Abe Carver on the NBC soap opera "Days of Our Lives" in much the same way.

During 23 of the show's historic 40 years, Reynolds has become arguably the most consistent African-American presence in daytime television. The actor said he feels very fortunate that, with the exception of a period during the late-80s when his "character wasn't used as much as he should" have been, Abe has been one of the key players in the show for a long, long time.

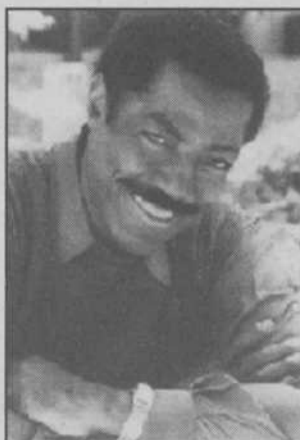
Reynolds said he takes to heart and feels the responsibility of his role as the show's, oftentimes exclusive, African-American voice. Still, as the number one soap in countries such as Australia and South Africa, he admits the show takes strides to represent all.

"It's important that we reflect the diversity of this country and have a variety of people on the show," he explains.

Reynolds calls daytime "legacy" television as a way to describe the viewing habits of fans that are passed from one generation to the next.

"Families sit down and watch daytime together," he said. "That's how a lot of people are introduced to it. They're sitting there with their mother or father or grandmother and learn to watch the show."

Though he had first-hand experience watching stories and knew of their significance to his own family, Reynolds never realized the true impact of daytime television on viewers until joining "Days." He said he regularly receives mail from fans saying the show's continuity helps them through difficult times in their personal and family lives.



JAMES REYNOLDS

"Our audience is very, very involved in the show and allows the show to be very, very involved in their lives," he points out. "That's really humbling and quite an honor for me to share in that and be part of their lives in that way."

Reynolds' extended run on "Days" has provided him another honor. The actor has logged more TV time than any African-American in history. By his own calculations, between "Days" and other series roles, Reynolds has done more than 2,500 hours of television over the years. He calls the feat "bittersweet."

"It feels good, and I cer-

tainly feel honored and very proud to be the one who has achieved that," Reynolds confesses. "I also hope there will be a number of people in the coming years who will surpass that."

As the television viewing audience becomes increasingly multicultural, Reynolds said the industry, both in daytime and primetime television, needs to respond in kind. He feels television should diversify programming to represent a broader spectrum of society. He notes that while primetime shows do reflect a degree of diversity, "minority characters are never in the lead."

Reynolds also points with dismay toward the trend of reality shows. Whether because they contribute to less scripted television or show premises promote behaviors the actor said "societally we just shouldn't support," Reynolds is particularly disturbed by these. While he admits some are quality, he questions whose "reality" they reflect.

"They always have one person of color," he laments. "One Black person, one

Latin person, or one Asian person. That's it, and it's getting worse."

The actor notes African-Americans are the top viewing audience for daytime television per-capita with Latin demographic growing rapidly as well. Reynolds hopes Hollywood recognizes and responds to this soon. He indicates that, like television rating systems that often rank shows by popularity among ethnic demographics, programming needs to "change with the times." He suggests, "The canvas has to be more multicultural."

"There's a long way for television to go," he admits. "Television has to show..." The actor pauses, as if catching himself about to say something he might later regret. Then, after a momentary chuckle, he continues.

"I was going to say 'an act of courage,' but it's not even that," he finally said. "They have to show common sense. There's an audience out there, White and minority audiences alike, who want to see something different."

*Paul Pratt writes for the Sacramento Observer.*

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