



ASK DEANNA!
*Real People,
Real Advice*

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

Dear Deanna!

My ex-boyfriend's a drug dealer that's been in jail for 13 years and getting ready to be released. I got married shortly after he was put in prison because I had to go on with my life. He'll be out after Thanksgiving and he called me and said he's coming to my house and he's going to kick my door down and throw my husband out. I don't know what to do.

Keyona
Patterson, NJ

Dear Keyona:

Don't let this turkey spoil your Thanksgiving holiday. Sounds like you didn't find closure between getting rid of one man and settling down with another. Let your husband know what's going on immediately. Don't panic because your ex-boyfriend will be on probation when he's released. If he comes to your door with drama—smile while dialing 911 and his parole violation will send him back to jail just in time for Christmas.

Dear Deanna!

My sister is a sellout to the Black race because she purposely limits herself to dating White guys. She has the impression White men treat her better, and give her more financially, but she won't be seen with them in Black public places. She needs to keep it real and admit she's only using these White men for material things.

Marcus
Houston, TX

Dear Marcus:

A White man can treat a Black woman as good or as bad as a Black man can. You're right—she's limiting herself if she wants to stay inside "Jungle Fever" and not experience the red, green, olive and whatever other colors of men out there. Accept the fact your sister is playing silly love games and be there when the chips fall. With this type behavior, she's going to need a shoulder to cry on soon.

Dear Deanna!

My husband had an affair and left me for an ex-prostitute. He said he left because I lost my excitement and sex appeal. I admit, I let myself go and I gained a little weight. He never judged his new woman with her past because he felt she changed for the better. Then he caught her in bed with another man and now he's begging to come back because he said he made a mistake.

Confused Spouse
Chicago, IL

Dear Confused:

The grass isn't greener on the other side. Your husband needed to water the grass he had with acceptance and fertilize it with love and he wouldn't have made this stupid mistake. Immediately get tested for HIV, and other STD's, and then head to professional marriage counseling. Oh yeah, the other woman. Think of her as a pet and your husband should be more convinced that you can't teach an old dog new tricks.

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

Spelman women target hip hop

College's women continue to attack lyrics that denigrate females

By Janelle Richards and Nisa Islam Muhammad
Special to Sentinel-Voice
ATLANTA (NNPA) -

Last year, the young women of Spelman College started a national conversation against the denigration of Black women in the music industry.

After viewing rapper Nelly's "Tip Drill" video, Spelman students Aisha Jennings and Moya Bailey were fed up with the images of women and could no longer withstand the silence. They organized a panel dis-

cussion of 150 students in protest of his scheduled visit, and decided Nelly wasn't welcome at Spelman.

This year, the school and Rapper MC Lyte joined forces to bring "Hip Hop Week" to the all-female campus.

From Oct. 31-Nov. 4, students tackled the subject of the impact of hip-hop in urban, suburban and rural communities and the exploitation of women in the music industry.

Freshman Kristin Kelly, a philosophy major, said that,



"You have to stay true to yourself and speak up, don't wait around until it's too late."
— MC Lyte

"Hip Hop Week allowed us, as young adults and Black women, to explore hip-hop; more than just the music videos and beats, but the culture and history, as well."

The week included panel discussions, an open mic session for aspiring artists and a film screening of "Masculinity in Hip Hop" by Byron Hunt. The male panel discussion, which was hosted by MC Lyte, featured actor/musician Malcolm Jamal Warner, Rapper Chuck D, actor Darryl "Chill" Mitchell and Spelman Professor Wil-

liam Jelani Cobb.

Somewhere between the powerful and poetic lyrics of Tupac and the arrival of new "artists," hip-hop has evolved into a "rap" movement that glorifies violence and degrades women, many students observed.

Hip-hop was once on a nurturing road to grow and move the masses, but something created an obstruction, they stressed.

The week continued with an all-female panel discussion. Artists MC Lyte, Cheryl (See Women, Page 9)



"Rep yourself and be proud. Owning your own image is important."
—Cheryl "Salt" James

O.J.: Blake subjected to unfair system

LOS ANGELES (AP) - O.J. Simpson on Friday questioned the system that allowed both him and actor Robert Blake to be found liable for murder after being acquitted in criminal court, calling it "double jeopardy."

"I still don't get how anyone can be found not guilty of a murder and then be found responsible for it in any way shape or form," Simpson said in a phone interview from his Florida home. "... If you're found not guilty, how can you be found responsible? I'd love to hear how that's not double jeopardy."

Simpson said he had no opinion about Blake's guilt or innocence in the murder of his wife, Bonny Lee Bakley, because he did not follow either trial closely.

Simpson said Blake was subjected to an unfair system in which a civil jury can essentially reverse a criminal jury's finding by using a lesser standard of proof in which jurors need be convinced only by "a preponderance of the evidence," meaning at least 51 percent.

"If that was the standard in criminal trials, only 51 percent, then so many people would be convicted that we'd have to build more jails," Simpson said. "The standard

is the difference."

Simpson was acquitted of the murders of his ex-wife, Nicole Brown Simpson, and her friend, Ronald Goldman, then was sued in civil court where a jury found him liable for their deaths and awarded damages of \$33.5 million. In Blake's case, the jury awarded \$30 million, a figure Simpson said was suspiciously similar. "It was too coincidental," he said.

In both trials, he said, lawyers were aware that the acquitted defendants were out of money and would not be able to pay the damages. Blake has said he's broke and owes money to the Internal Revenue Service. Before the

trial began, Blake tried to settle with the family for \$250,000, which he said was the remainder of his once-large fortune. They rejected the offer.

Simpson, a former football star at the University of Southern California and in the NFL, moved to Florida where he lives on a pension that is untouchable to satisfy court judgments.

"Trust me," Simpson said. "I'm happy with my life. I'm not complaining."

Simpson said he hopes that someone eventually will go the U.S. Supreme Court to challenge the system that allows double trials.

"I'd love to see the Su-

preme Court rule on one of these cases," he said. He also noted that a defendant must have the money to post a bond to appeal the judgment, which is usually beyond their financial ability.

Asked if he had any advice for Blake, he said, "If Robert Blake has friends and family around him, he'll do fine. I would give him the same advice I gave Michael (Jackson). You've got your kid. Go and raise your kid."

He added, "To me, the thing that's most disturbing is to watch these lawyers grand standing. It's all for TV and for the book deals. I predict they will make a book deal. They did it in my case."

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