



**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 a teen, and I think I've realized I want to be gay. I'm not attracted to boys, and I find myself watching girls and thinking about them. All of my other friends are gay, and I'm becoming the same way. No one in my family is gay, and my mother wouldn't understand because she's a Christian. Am I stuck with a future that's making me gay, or do I have a chance to have a normal marriage and have kids?

Confused  
Memphis, TN

Dear Confused:

You still have milk behind your ears and don't need to think about being with a girl or boy at this stage in your life. You're caught up in peer pressure, and you are leaning towards what the rest of the crowd is doing. You're not gay. You're just a teen with confusion and the need for acceptance. Focus on your spiritual relationship, educational goals and hobbies. That'll help you grow and soon be on to other things.

\*\*\*\*\*

Dear Deanna!

I have a boyfriend that I'm in love with. We're in a serious relationship, and he's great. I'm a pastor's kid, and my boyfriend is a gang member. He doesn't understand how hurt I am because he is heading down the wrong path. I know that God has to do the rest, but should I hang on?

Anonymous  
On-Line Reader

Dear Anonymous:

You could be the child of a pastor, a banker, a drunk or a fool and the answer would be the same. Don't get involved with gang activity because bullets, drive-by shootings and gang wars don't discriminate. With your church foundation and teaching, you know the way, and if your boyfriend refuses this path, you can only pray for him. You should hang on to your faith and strong prayer, and let go and let God do the rest.

\*\*\*\*\*

Dear Deanna!

I've never been a fan of an advice column. I started reading your column a year ago in Denver, Colo., and now I'm hooked. Your advice is so real because you tell people what they need to hear and not what they want to hear. I only hope they take your advice and not get mad because you didn't side with them. I look forward to reading your next issues.

Anthony  
Denver, CO

Dear Anthony:

Thank you so much for the support. Life, people and places are real, and words of wisdom and advice should be the same. At the end of the day, people can't handle the truth and would prefer feel-good honesty which is simply a lie. When you think about it, people should get mad, get pumped and then take action, and keep it moving.

Ask Deanna is written by Deanna M. Write Ask Deanna! Email: askdeanna1@yahoo.com or write: Deanna M, 264 S. La Cienega, Suite 1283, Beverly Hills, CA 90211 Website: www.askdeanna.com

**Pryor**

(Continued from Page 1)

hit by a bus or dying as a result of sexual intercourse. "I don't know about you, but I am going to be in that long line," Pryor said. Then, he pretends to be moving slowly in a line, alternately looking at those behind and in front of him. A high school dropout, Pryor initially patterned his career after Bill Cosby.

"Richard was always upset with Bill Cosby," Paul Mooney, one of Pryor's closest friends and a fellow comedian, told the *Los Angeles Times* 10 years ago. "I think he wanted to be Bill... But I always liked Richard's stuff better. Bill didn't wow me. He wowed White people... Black people sank into Pryor's material like an easy chair... That's what his talent was: talking about Black people, to Black people."

Pryor said cursing wasn't the worst thing one could do. "A lie is profanity," he said. "A lie is the worst thing in the world. Art is the ability to tell the truth, especially about one's self."

Pryor began expressing his own art in 1967. He abruptly ended his act at the Aladdin Hotel in Las Vegas, asking: "What am I doing here? I'm not going to do this anymore." He explained, "I made a lot of money being Bill Cosby, but I was hiding my personality. I just wanted to be in show business so bad I didn't care how. It started bothering me — I was being a robot comic, repeating them same lines, getting the same laughs for the same jokes. The repetition was killing me."

In his autobiography, "Pryor Convictions and Other Life Sentences," written with Todd Gold, he recounts: "There was a world of junkies and winos, pool hustlers and prostitutes, women and family screaming inside of my head, trying to be heard. The longer I kept them bottled up, the harder they tried to escape. The pressure built til I went nuts."

When Pryor went nuts, it became research for his stage act. In 1978, he was fined \$500 and ordered to seek psychiatric care after ramming his car into another vehicle that contained his wife then firing bullets at the tires. Pryor would later joke that he killed that car.

Two years later, Pryor suffered third-degree burns over the upper half of his body while freebasing cocaine. After being hospitalized for two months, Pryor returned to the stage with a joke. He would strike a match, wave it in front of his face: "What is this? Richard Pryor run-

ning down the street."

He promised to start a new singing group, "Earth, Wind and Pryor."

An earlier heart attack that led to a triple bypass was not off limits to Pryor.

In "Richard Pryor, Live in Concert," he said: "I woke up in the ambulance, right? And there was nothin' but White people starin' at me. I say (expletive deleted) ... I done died and wound up in the wrong heaven. Now I gotta listen to Lawrence Welk the rest of my days."

He won five Grammys for his comedy albums, including "Bicentennial Nigger" and "That Nigger's Crazy." He was an accomplished writer, providing scripts for "Sanford and Son," "The Flip Wilson Show" and winning an Emmy for a Lily Tomlin television special.

At one point, Pryor was the highest paid Black entertainer in Hollywood. He appeared in more than 40 movies, including "Lady Sings the Blues," "Jo Jo Dancer," "Bustin' Loose," "Car Wash," "Greased Lightning," "Brewster's Millions," "Harlem Nights," "California Suite," "The Toy," "Superman III," "Blue Collar" and "The Bingo Long Traveling All-Stars & Motor



Trailblazing comedian/actor/satirist Richard Pryor holds the Hall of Fame award he received during the 27th National Association for the Advancement of Colored People's Image Awards in Hollywood in this 1996 file photo.

Kings." He also starred with Gene Wilder in "Silver Steak," "Which Way is Up," "Stir Crazy" and "Another You."

After seeing the all-White cast of "Logan's Run," a science-fiction movie, Pryor said: "...White folks ain't planning for us to be here. That's why we gotta make movies, and we can be in the future. But we got to make some really hip movies. We done made enough movies about pimps, because White people already know about pimpin'. 'Cause we the biggest hos they got."

Even when he was freely doling out the n-word, Pryor

showed that he wasn't unaware of his African heritage. On his "Bicentennial" album, for example, he asks: "You all know how Black humor started? It started in a slave ship. Cat was always over there rowing. Dude say, 'What you laughin' about?' Said, 'Yesterday, I was a king.'"

It was a trip to Zimbabwe in 1980 that caused Pryor to quit using the n-word.

"There are no niggers here," he wrote in his autobiography. "The people here, they still have their self-respect, their pride."

And so does Richard Pryor.

**SAVE UP TO \$356.\***  
(HURRY IN BUT DON'T SPEED.)

See a local Las Vegas area agent today and get the discounts and service you deserve.



LIKE A GOOD NEIGHBOR, STATE FARM IS THERE.™

statefarm.com®

PF00002 10/05

\*Annual average annual savings with \$200.00 per household. This amount is based on a January 2005 survey of new policyholders who reported savings through State Farm as compared to previous carriers rates.

State Farm Mutual Automobile Insurance Company, State Farm Indemnity Company - Bloomington, IL