



ASK DEANNA!
*Real People,
Real Advice*

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

Dear Deanna!

If a relationship is doing well and things are fine without marriage, why do women complain? I've been with my girlfriend for nine years, and sometimes she rants about being legal and having a piece of paper justify our relationship. I feel it won't make any difference because we have love and neither one of us is going anywhere.

Ronnie
Beaumont, TX

Dear Ronnie:

So you want to sacrifice salvation for physical comfort? True, your courtship lasted longer than most marriages. If you love the relationship you should do the right thing and not fornicate by living the shacking lifestyle. Marriage will change things because you'll have the true blessing of God over your relationship as well as many marriage perks and benefits. After nine years, quit playing and do the right thing.

Dear Deanna!

I'm in prison and have been here for over 10 years. My children were babies when I left, and my wife always throws it in my face that I never did anything for them. No, I haven't paid child support or provided material things, but I can share wisdom. Now, they've gone astray and she's blaming it on me. I feel I can help if she would only bring them to see me.

Anonymous
Soledad Prison in CA

Dear Anonymous:

Child support and material things don't raise children. Love, support, and wisdom along with discipline and faith lead children in the right way. She should be bringing those kids to visit you every chance she gets. Children seeing their father in prison is the ultimate tool to help them do right and stay out of trouble. When they visit, help them by keeping it real about the consequences of your misdeed that landed you in prison and took your life, your dreams and your family.

Dear Deanna!

I spent so much time raising my kids that I lost myself in my marriage. Next thing you know, my husband files for divorce, takes the house, the money and the kids. Now he's taking me to court for child support, and I don't think its right. I don't know what to do as a housewife with no education.

Jeanie
Paoli, PA

Dear Jeanie:

If you had custody of those kids you would've beat the court doors off the hinges trying to get some money. Regardless of gender, absent parents should pay child support. Like being homeless, divorce is not an overnight thing and you should've seen it coming. You knew what you were working with. Like they tell men, stop whining, get a job and handle your business — even if you have to flip a few burgers.

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

Book praises Black women

Review by Kam Williams
Sentinel-Voice
**Defying the Odds:
Triumphant Black
Women of Newark** by
Barbara J. Kukla; Swing
City Press; Hardcover,
\$28.00; 280 pages, illus.
ISBN: 0-9768130-0-9

"Whether the threat is a burning cross in a sleepy Southern town, or a female doctor bucking the Whites-only hiring policies of a city hospital, 'Defying the Odds: Triumphant Black Women of Newark' speaks to the remarkable fortitude of women everywhere who struggle against the everyday realities of racial bigotry and sexual discrimination.

My purpose in writing this book is tied to my belief that too little attention has been paid to contributions made to our society by the men and women brought here in shackles to fuel our nation's early economy. [It] focuses on the contributions of eight African-American women... [and it contains] more than 200 additional Black women of Newark who reached the top of their fields.

"Considered as a whole,

the accomplishments of these trailblazers paint a powerful picture of what African-American women can achieve, against the odds, in their quest for excellence. Their stories can help new generations of young Black women gain strength and inspiration from a broader perspective on the challenges of being Black and female." — Excerpted from the Introduction

Do the names Connie Woodruff or Gladys St. John ring a bell? How about Dr. E. Alma Flagg or Dr. E. Mae McCarroll? Or Viola Wells, Wynona M. Lipman, Mary Beasley Burch or Marion A. Bolden? Likely not, though each of these Black trailblazers from Newark, N.J., made significant contributions in their chosen fields of endeavor. And luckily, their legacy has now been fittingly preserved by Barbara J. Kukla in "Defying the Odds."

Kukla, who served as editor of "Newark This Week" during most of her 36-year tenure at the Newark Star-Ledger, was intimately involved with many of the

folks found here. Besides her professional ties to the community, she is a longtime member of the city's Bethany Baptist Church.

The author is a gifted writer who has crafted each entry in a straightforward, journalistic style tempered by an ability to serve up a bio in a way which makes each subject come alive and practically leap off the pages. For example, we get treated to an excellent sense of the personality of Connie Williams Woodruff (1921-1996), to whom the book is dedicated. We learn that Connie was an only child who could play classical music by the age of six.

She was a stellar student and was invited to Washington, D.C., one summer to participate in a six-week institute sponsored by the Republican Party.

Besides learning about government, she would suffer severe humiliation as the only Black participant in the program.

Particularly poignant is how her chapter recounts the discrimination she encountered in the Capitol area. One

incident occurred at a Chinese restaurant as soon as she entered when she was refused service by an Asian-American waitress who screamed, "No niggly! No niggly! No niggly!" in pidgin-English.

On top of that insult, Connie was informed that she couldn't stay at the hotel with the rest of the delegates, but had to find boarding on the "Black side" of town. Despite, or perhaps because of these impediments, she managed to maintain her dignity and forge a determination which would lead to many years of dedicated service to the people as a labor leader, educator and the editor of a Black newspaper.

The other seven biographies contained in this informative opus are just as gripping, as are the mini-histories of the additional 200 doctors, lawyers, businesswomen, athletes, politicians, entertainers and other African-American women from all walks of life who made enough of a mark to earn the right to be remembered as a favorite daughter of the City of Newark.

Wu-Tang Clan kicks off reunion tour

HARTFORD, Conn. (AP) - The Wu-Tang Clan is back. Fourteen months after founding member O.D.B. fatally overdosed on cocaine and painkillers, the surviving eight members of the pioneering hip-hop group are touring again.

"It's going to be different in a sense," group member GZA said in a telephone interview just before the 12-day tour kicked off last Tuesday in New Haven. "He isn't going to be there physically, but spiritually and mentally

he still will be there."

The New York rap collective, formed in 1992, revolutionized the hip-hop industry in the 1990s with its raw lyricism and business approach. Designed to take over the record industry, the group branched off to do solo projects following the major success of their debut album "Enter the Wu-Tang (36 Chambers)."

O.D.B., also known as Ol' Dirty Bastard, was a few days from turning 36 when he overdosed at a Manhattan

recording studio in November 2004.

The group had not performed since then until starting its East Coast tour, which

ends this weekend in Orlando, Fla. Some proceeds will be donated to the deceased rapper's family.

(See Wu-Tang, Page 8)

Actress chronicles Black History through worship

Special to Sentinel-Voice

In an attempt to familiarize audiences with the role worship has played in the social and political struggles and advancements of African-Americans, Christian dramatist Sherre Miller Bishop will perform her original monologue, "From the Motherland to the Promised Land" at 7 p.m. on Friday at Mountaintop Faith Ministries, 2845 South Lindell Road. The program is free.

Bishop recently performed in Hollywood as a featured winner in the 11th Annual Los Angeles Women's Theater Festival, whose board includes such stars as Danny Glover and Marla Gibbs. A former television news anchor and former public affairs director of WB Channel 58 in Nashville, Bishop has also worked as a TV and radio news reporter in Wisconsin, North Carolina, Memphis and as a stringer for Washington-based BET News. She currently serves as director of public relations at Tennessee State University.

For more information, call Mountaintop Faith Ministries at 367-1636.

HEARTS & ROSES WEDDING CHAPEL

"The Place Where Dreams Come True"



Reverend LEONARD B. JACKSON

At HEARTS & ROSES WEDDING CHAPEL, we want to make your special wedding day a dream come true!

Off the Strip, nestled away in the legendary world-renowned Liberace Plaza, our professional wedding coordinators bring together unforgettable, exquisite weddings and receptions that will be cherished for a lifetime.

Our affordably unique packages offer themes, divine destinations, holiday and specialty events, all in classic Las Vegas style!

Your personal coordinator will make sure that you will have everything your heart desires to make this a glorious and memorable occasion!

~ CHAPEL HOURS ~
Monday - Saturday: 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Sunday & Holidays: By appointment only

1775 E. TROPICANA AVENUE - Suite 20
LAS VEGAS, NV. 89119

(702) 471-7900 - (800) 293-9212
88 TO-SAY-I-DO - (888) 672-9436 - Fax: (702) 895-7033
www.hrchapel.com - www.heartsandroseschapel.com
revljb@aol.com

5% Discount if you mention this ad