



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 married but often go on weekend trips with my friends. My husband issued an ultimatum to adjust my schedule, but I chose not to. He threatened me and said he would leave if I chose my friends instead of going with him to his family reunion. I went on my trip. When I returned, he was gone, the house was empty and utilities disconnected. He won't talk to me and now wants a divorce, and I don't know what to do?

Tamara
Louisville, KY

Dear Tamara:

It's hard to imagine a girlie trip that's so good it would make you forsake your marriage, unless you're cheating. Perhaps your friends can give you a cozy couch to sleep on since you put them before your husband. Your decision was foolish, immature and disrespectful. Reach out to your husband and invite him to a friendly location for a huge apology, an explanation and much needed counseling to help with issues you both obviously have.

Dear Deanna!

I'm an older woman dating a younger man. Our relationship is happy and healthy but his mother has an issue because she and I are the same age. Her son is very mature, we get along well and everything is balanced. We're starting to have arguments because his mother tries to interfere. We aren't going to make it unless he stops listening to his mother so much. How do I handle this?

Rose Mary
Dallas, TX

Dear Rose Mary:

You handle it by not robbing the cradle and date men your own age. This is still her baby boy and she's simply not willing to accept him being with someone her age. She may feel as if she's being disrespected, you're taking advantage of her son, and, most importantly, she's losing him. You and her son should work together and help her understand your relationship; become friends and if she doesn't respond, then too bad and keep it moving.

Dear Deanna!

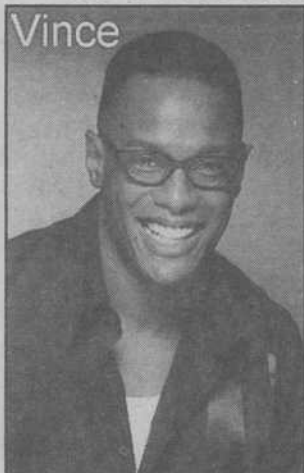
My father is causing a lot of pain in my family. I made the decision to date and have interracial children. He calls my children horrible racial slurs and makes jokes about them to his friends. My family has now split against me because I choose not to go around my father or participate in things if he's around. Is there a friendly way to resolve this issue without causing more pain to my children and family?

Derrick J.
New York, NY

Dear Derrick:

Your father is a racist. He should realize that your children have his blood and he should be ashamed of himself. You're doing the right thing because no one, including your family, has the right to disrespect you or your children. To make a long story short, your father needs a good man-to-man visit from you. Firmly let him know you will not tolerate this behavior and if he wants to see you or the children, he needs to stop this rudeness immediately.

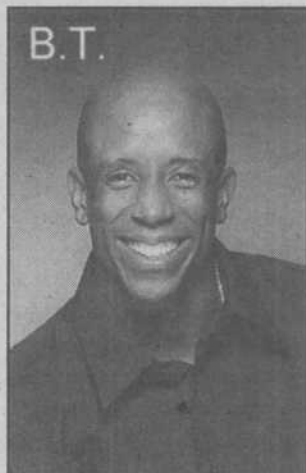
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VINCE MORRIS



BILLY D. WASHINGTON



B.T.



LOUIS JOHNSON

Comedy tour to stop in Vegas

By Debbie Hall
Special to Sentinel-Voice
Four comics. Four different points of view. One goal: urban brilliance. This is the "Sellout" Tour featuring Vince Morris, B.T., Billy D. Washington and Louis Johnson — four incredible, diverse comedians.

"The group performs for one night, Friday, at 8:00 p.m. at the Railhead inside the Boulder Station Hotel and Casino at 4111 Boulder Highway.

While the word sellout has a negative connotation, these comics, with over 65 years of performing between them, use the word proudly.

"In the past," Morris stated, "we were either not Black enough or too Black. Comedy was polarized, and both Whites and Blacks criticized us. We want to present a show with humor with comedians who happen to be Black."

B.T. agreed, "When Eddie Murphy came out with his Delirious Tour, and then there was the Def Jam tour, everyone had an idea what 'Black' comedy should be about. We are here to challenge that and go beyond."

All four have a diverse style and outlook which blends to present all facets of life in a funny way but still speaks the truth."

B.T., originally from Muskogee, Okla., jokes that "I was kicked out of the ghetto because of rock music. In junior high, I was listening to [the rock group] KISS and everyone would look at me with that 'What-the-hell?' expression."

B.T. adds the high energy and is called the official "techno-geek" of the group.

Morris laughs about him and joked that, "B.T. invented My Space, the Internet — and don't believe it about George Washington Carver and peanut butter — B.T. will tell you he discovered peanut butter."

B.T. countered: "If Malcolm X did stand up

"When Eddie Murphy came out with his Delirious Tour, and then there was the Def Jam tour, everyone had an idea what 'Black' comedy should be about. We are here to challenge that and go beyond."

comedy, he would have done Vince's [Morris'] act."

Morris, from Columbus, Ohio, is the intellectual, ready to discuss the issues and concerns, not just Black or White, but those affecting all people. He wants everyone to have fun and think outside of the box when he speaks.

A native of Houston, Texas, Washington is the

smooth poet, with a jazz undertone and romantic appeal. He epitomizes Black velvet and it translates to his comedic style. The thread which brought all four together, "Old School" Johnson is the 'normal' one of the group with a wife and children living in his hometown of Denver, Colo. All four had performed at the Comedy Works in Denver when it was de-

vised in 2005 to create the "Sellout" Tour through the efforts of Johnson with a foundation created by Washington, Morris and B.T.

This show is the first of the tour in 2006 and the troupe's first performance in Las Vegas. "We are excited to be performing [here]," B.T. stated, "We love Las Vegas," he said emphatically.

"We want audience participation," Morris added, "We celebrate our differences one joke at a time."

For more information about the tour and the four comedians, visit websites www.theblackpack.com or www.myspace.com/blackpack.

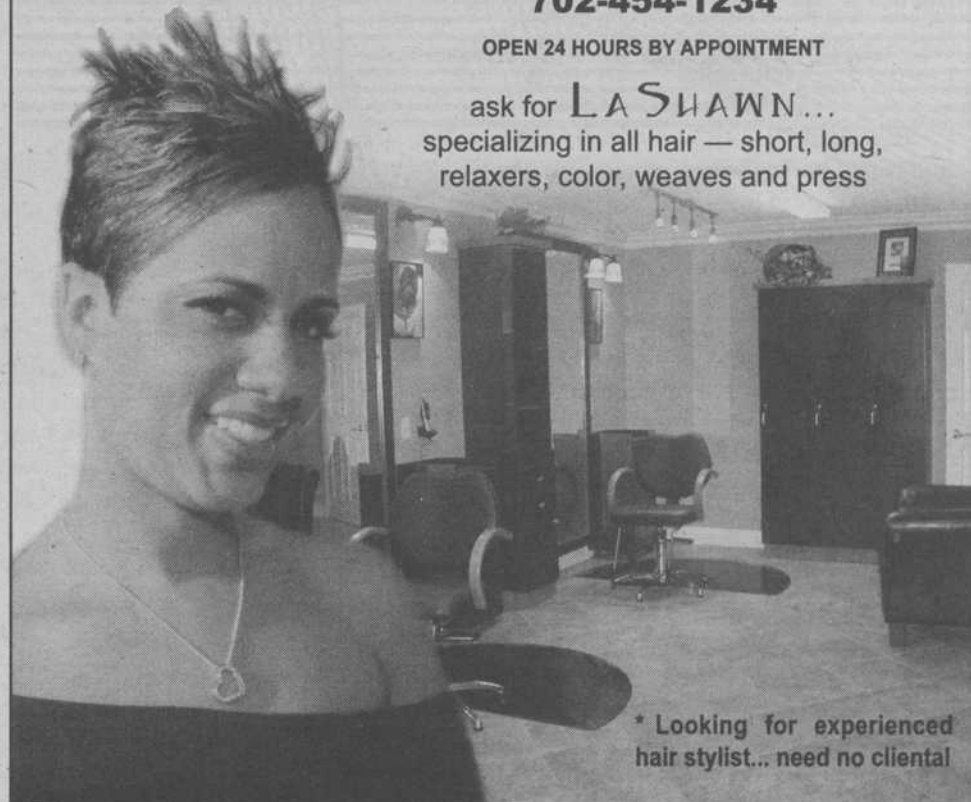
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