



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 sick and tired of men disrespecting me because of my wardrobe. If I want to dress sexy and wear revealing clothes to the mall or grocery store, then I should have this freedom without men trying to run lame pick up lines on me or assume I'm easy. What's your suggestion?

Dressing Sexy
Nashville, TN

Dear Dressing Sexy:

The mall and grocery store isn't the place for you to shake what your mama gave you. Respect yourself and others by dressing appropriately when you're in public places. You attract what you project. You can wear whatever you want, but remember that men are visually stimulated. If you dress to make yourself look cheap and easy then you're setting yourself up for unwanted attention. If the shoe fits, wear it.

Dear Deanna!

I made myself get out of an abusive relationship. I was beaten, verbally abused, raped and tormented on a daily basis for almost three-years. I had convinced myself that I loved this man and his abuse was his way of showing affection. I'm at a point now where I feel as if I've moved on. However, my ex-boyfriend is now trying to come back and he's convinced me that he's changed. Should I give him another chance?

Rebecca
Buffalo, NY

Dear Rebecca:

If you go back, be sure you have your funeral arrangements in order or get ready for a life of misery. This man treats you worse than a dog and has no respect, care or love for you. If you made it out of the situation, then you need to use your brains and stay out. No, you shouldn't give him another chance to assault you, insult your womanhood or risk killing you. The writing's on the wall—just make sure you read it.

Dear Deanna!

What do you do when your husband gets fat and out of shape? When we were married, he was in shape; he would go to the gym and kept things together. Now he's comfortable and has gained a lot of weight. It turns me off so bad that I can't be intimate. This is causing us to argue a lot and he tells me that I have to take him as he is because he's not changing. What can I do about this?

Lorraine
Jacksonville, FL

Dear Lorraine:

If you're responsible for the cooking, then perhaps you can transition to a healthier lifestyle. The key to supporting your husband's weight loss is encouragement instead of criticism. Highlight the health benefits and let him know that you're with him every step of the way. If no, I suggest you eat some snacks, put some junk in your trunk and be fat and happy together.

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'Black Sinatra' dissed by club

By Bill Beene
Special to Sentinel-Voice
ST. LOUIS (NNPA) -
Gene Lynn's.

It's like the Black "Cheers." Just about everybody knows everybody's name. And they're (usually) always glad you came. Regulars include politicians, musicians and beauticians, doctors and judges, journalists, educators, entrepreneurs and every ordinary Joe and Josephine in between.

On tap is good, cerebral conversation, good service, good drinks, good food and good music — live or via juke box.

Cheers. Every regular will drink to that.

The bar's founder, name-sake and longtime owner — singer Gene Lynn, known as the "Black Frank Sinatra" — wouldn't have it any other way.

Gene Lynn ran the cozy, legendary joint that way since 1971, when it stood its first ground at 322 N. Whittier on the west side of its current location in the Lindell Marketplace, 348 Sarah.

At that time, Gene Lynn's was "the place to be" since the packed and popular, nearby Gaslight Square had flickered out in late '60s.

Gaslight Square was a hub of juxtaposed nightlife whose coveted stages attracted entertainers from all over the world. Ella Fitzgerald, Sarah Vaughn and Linda Ronstadt. And Gene Lynn.

He and other local standouts broke a leg or two on star-bright Gaslight Square stages.

At the time, St. Louis's music scene trumpeted about 25 local jazz bands and four big bands, said 74-year-old former sax man and flutist Andre McFadden while sitting in Gene Lynn's recently.

Since Gene Lynn himself had hummed a few bars on Gaslight Square and later performed on the celebrity-seducing Playboy Boy circuit, fellow musicians and music lovers, like McFadden, followed and watered Gene Lynn's first music hole for 17-years.

When developers bought out his spot and built what is now Lindell Marketplace, some continued to follow, but not enough to sustain the next location — downtown at 9th and Locust.

There was competition, parking was bad, and the American Theatre (now Roberts Orpheum) and Lennox Hotel (now the Renaissance Grand) soon closed.

After a year off, Gene Lynn got a request for an encore stint near his initial spot,

this time inside Lindell Marketplace, the current abode since 1993.

Through three locations, his signature amenities, along with live music, including performances by the one and only Gene Lynn, remained.

Gene Lynn sings in the style of the late, great Frank Sinatra, so he also attracted a large White audience and was often accused of catering to the Caucasian persuasion.

"I catered to people who wanted to come in and enjoy themselves," Gene Lynn said via telephone from his Central West End condo. "When people came in, I didn't discriminate against anyone."

How ironic that these days Gene Lynn isn't necessarily welcome in Gene Lynn's.

How could that be?

"I hope they can realize a whole lot of different cultures of people can be together. Don't disrespect me because I'm Oriental."

— Kay Kim

In November 2004, Gene Lynn sold his musical meeting place for \$75,000 — and more time to hit the golf course and play other venues around town.

The new owner, who at 30 is less than half Gene Lynn's age, is South Korea-born Kay Kim.

The cute, petite, cheery Kim, fun but firm, admits she knew nothing of the bar biz. She just wanted a profitable business for a comfortable livelihood.

"When I was looking for a business, someone recommended this place," Kim said.

And with a rich banker for a father back home, she got it.

"I promised my daddy I'm going to pay him back," Kay said laughing, explaining that it's been profitable.

To learn the business, Kim studied a bartender's

guide and enlisted the help of Mary Beckham, who had formerly worked for Gene Lynn.

"She's a quick learner. She's smart," Beckham said of Kim.

Kim was smart enough to keep the Gene Lynn's name, too.

"People said I should keep the name because he's one of the characters around here, and if I changed the name nobody would know who I am," Kim said.

Now, just about everybody knows and has welcomed the sweet, smiling, new owner with the adorable broken English, punctuated with a Korean accent. They also know her personable beau and cook Jay Park (also Korean), who has developed the menu.

"A lot of times, when you

change ownership, that doesn't mean the place has changed, it's just that somebody else has it now," said Lois Laster, an employment specialist for Adams Mark Hotel, who calls Gene Lynn's her watering hole.

"For the time being, she's been able to maintain the character that it has always had," Kim said some questioned her ability and right to run a Black bar. To that, she said it shouldn't matter that she's Korean.

"They don't need to talk about difference in race. We need to help one another," Kim said. "I hope they can realize a whole lot of different cultures of people can be together. Don't disrespect me because I'm Oriental."

Kim has been able to learn most of the ropes, but hasn't been able to maintain the musicians, except Trio Tres Bien who helped sell her on

buying Gene Lynn's. "My first time here, Trio Tres Bien was here and I never seen that many people crowded so close to the stage," Kim said. "They were crowded around, and I could feel real live music."

Kim had quickly learned that live music was the driving force of Gene Lynn's. She kept Trio Tres Bien playing Saturdays. She also retained Kecia Davis and the 2.0 Band on Wednesdays. And she hired Marty Abdullah and the Expressions Band on Fridays.

Gene Lynn would sit in sometimes with the various bands when he came by, but an incident inside the bar starring Gene Lynn vexed Kim.

"This not his place anymore," Kim said. She prefers that Gene Lynn not set foot in there again, and he is definitely forbidden from the stage.

You could say Gene Lynn was fired from Gene Lynn's.

Gene Lynn and some friends stopped by recently when Kecia Davis and the 2.0 Band were jamming. Gene Lynn, keeping tradition, went up for a song.

Kim stopped the show and told the band members not to let him sing.

"Gene Lynn not maestro here anymore," Kim said. After a few choice words between Kim and Kecia Davis, her popular, crowd-pleasing band was out the door.

"She was wrong," Kecia Davis said. "We had no bad blood with Gene, and it goes against our grain as musicians. He's Gene Lynn — you have to acknowledge him."

Kecia Davis' beau and keyboardist Nathaniel Metcalfe said since Kay is the owner she should have told him he wasn't welcome on stage.

"We didn't call him up, he came up. I guess she had (See Black Sinatra, Page 9)

If you are looking for a reason to adopt foster children, here are two wonderful reasons.



For more information on adoption or foster care call Clark County Department of Family Services at 1-888-4-FAMILY. If you are interested in adopting this sibling group, please contact **Wendy's Wonder Kids Recruiter** Collette Smith at (702) 455-7286

