



ASK DEANNA!
*Real People,
Real Advice*

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

Dear Deanna!

My fiancé cheated before we were married and I recently learned that he's still seeing the woman he cheated with. I want to get out of the relationship but feel we should go to counseling. I find it hard to forgive him because I'm scared he'll do it again. What should I do about this?

Anisha
Washington, DC

Dear Anisha:

You had your warning signs before you got married and you knew what you were getting yourself into. Most women that are in tune with their relationship know when their mate is cheating. You should seek professional counseling not only for your marriage but yourself as well. If it doesn't work, you'll be able to breathe instead of sharing your spouse or walking around being scared and worrying about a man.

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:

If you love the relationship and the woman, you should do the right thing and not fornicate by living the shacking lifestyle. Marriage will change things for the better 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 over 50 and dated a guy for six years, but we split due to his financial problems and issues. I left his house and moved on. We were separated for two years and recently got back together. He has proposed, and now I've learned that he's cheating, lying and doing the same things that led to the initial split. My adult kids despise him and are trying to talk me out of this relationship. What do I do?

J.C.
Inglewood, CA

Dear J.C.:

You're a hot mess and you know it. At your age, you don't need to appear desperate as if you have no options. You broke up for a reason, and obviously you didn't build anything with this man. So why be a fool and go back? You're setting yourself up to pay all the bills, a lot of heartbreak and exposure to sexual diseases. Avoid being pathetic by listening to your kids, who also confirm this man is a loser.

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Jackson accuser in court

LOS ANGELES (AP) - The woman whose son claimed Michael Jackson molested him at Neverland ranch was ordered Friday to stand trial on felony charges of welfare fraud.

The 37-year-old woman waived her right to a preliminary hearing during an appearance in Superior Court. She is charged with one count of welfare fraud and four counts of perjury by falsely applying for welfare.

She is accused of stealing \$8,000 in government aid.

The woman, released without bail, did not speak to reporters as she left and a call to her attorney seeking comment was not immediately returned. The Associated Press has withheld her name to protect the identity of her son because he has claimed to be a molestation victim.

Jackson was acquitted of the child molestation charges last year. Many jurors said a

lack of credibility on the part of the woman and her children on the witness stand were major factors in their verdicts.

During the trial in Santa Maria, she invoked Fifth Amendment protection against self-incrimination on the welfare fraud issue and did not testify about it.

Fans of the superstar want to throw the book at her if she is convicted in the welfare case, the prosecutor said.

"I've had a lot of pressure from Michael Jackson fans to send her to jail," James Baker said outside court, adding that he has received at least 15 phone calls and faxes.

He said he has explained that prison usually is not the sentence in first-time welfare fraud cases involving small amounts of money.

Prosecutors claim the woman fraudulently collected \$18,782 in welfare (See Trial, Page 9)

Dunham

(Continued from Page 1)

She set up an eclectic compound of artists from around the globe, including Harry Belafonte. Among the free classes offered were dance, African hair-braiding and woodcarving, conversational Creole, Spanish, French and Swahili and more traditional subjects such as aesthetics and social science.

Dunham also offered martial arts training in hopes of getting young, angry males off the street. Her purpose,

she said, was to steer the residents of East St. Louis "into something more constructive than genocide."

Government cuts and a lack of private funding forced her to scale back her programs in the 1980s. Despite a constant battle to pay bills, Dunham continued to operate a children's dance workshop and a museum.

Plagued by arthritis and poverty in the latter part of her life, Dunham made headlines in 1992 when she went

on a 47-day hunger strike to protest U.S. policy that repatriated Haitian refugees.

"It's embarrassing to be an American," Dunham said at the time.

Dunham's New York studio attracted illustrious students like Marlon Brando and James Dean who came to learn the "Dunham Technique," which Dunham herself explained as "more than just dance or bodily executions. It is about movement, forms, love, hate, death, life,

all human emotions."

In her later years, she depended on grants and the kindness of celebrities, artists and former students to pay for her day-to-day expenses. Wilh Smith and Harry Belafonte were among those who helped her catch up on bills, Ottley said.

"She didn't end up on the street though she was one step from it," Ottley said. "She has been on the edge and survived it all with dignity and grace."

Dropout

(Continued from Page 6)

conomic Policy Institute's refuting study, also criticized the Greene-Swanson findings for failing to rigorously examine all possible data sources, including the National Education Longitudinal Study, considered to be the best available data on the issue, and the Census and the Current Population Survey, which tracks individual students or survey households. Both of these surveys also confirm higher graduation rates (about 74 percent) among Blacks and other minority groups. "Greene and Swanson used misleading indicators," Roy added during the conference.

Between 1979 and 2004, the Washington-based organization report also revealed that high school completion rates (regular diploma and GED - general education development) rose for both White and Black students, but it grew faster for Blacks. Over these 25 years, the Black-White graduation gap narrowed by 8.4 percentage points.

The overall high school graduation rate with a regular diploma, with the data from the national longitudinal study, is about 82 percent, the report added, further refuting the findings of the Manhattan policy group's study.

"We hope this report will clear the fog, create a better

understanding of the true challenges we face and the progress we've made, and help lead the way to better targeted solutions for con-

tinuing to close the remaining gaps. Understanding where we are and how far we've come can help identify what has been working in

American public education," Mishel said.

Anthony D. Advincula writes for the New York Amsterdam News.

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