



ASK DEANNA! Real People, Real Advice

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

Dear Deanna!

My mother is driving me crazy because she forgets that she's over 40, trying to dress like she's 20 years old. I get tired of telling her how bad she looks but the more I tell her, the worse it gets. My boyfriend laughs and thinks it's cute but it's not. How do I respectfully tell my mother she needs to get her act together? I'm afraid she's going to get embarrassed really bad in public.

Anonymous
Milwaukee, Wis.

Dear Anonymus:

If your mother chooses to look a hot mess, then you should mind your business and let her take the risk of personal humiliation. It's not easy because it's your mom, and if she's comfortable and has high self-esteem then so be it. However, if you truly insist on helping her, whip out your credit card and take her on a shopping spree. If you're not willing to do this, button your lips and keep it moving.

Dear Deanna!

My daughter is causing a split between her father and me. She's taking the daddy's girl relationship a bit too far. Initially, we all went along with it until my daughter realized her power. She has become demanding, forcing my husband to take her side over mine, and it's affecting our marriage. My husband eats it up but he can't see that my daughter is causing problems. He says I'm jealous and it'll be over shortly. How do I handle this?

Patsy K
Charlotte, N.C.

Dear Patsy:

Your daughter doesn't pay any bills and with that in mind, she doesn't run anything. You need to put your foot down and make your husband stop playing kiddie games with your child. He needs to place the word no in his vocabulary and realize he has a wife who is the primary decision maker with equal weight and power. True, you may be jealous but you're certainly right to close this issue before your husband finds himself single with an empty house.

Dear Deanna!

I'm a single parent at the end of my rope with my teen kids. I feel as if they've taken me hostage and I'm a slave meeting their demands. I go to work and come home to a dirty house and they are always asking for money, clothes and fast food. When I try to discipline one child, the others take sides and gang up on me. I've asked family to help, looked into counseling, and asked my pastor. I feel as if I'm a bad parent with these wild kids. What do I do?

Naomi
Birmingham, Ala.

Dear Naomi:

If your children are behaving as if they have no sense, you need to put them out. If there's no father in the house, you can solve that by getting your brothers, uncles and male cousins involved. You need to map out a plan, implement some rules and discipline. If they don't go along with what you say, too bad, because you're the parent and the breadwinner. Give them the option to obey or pack their stuff and get out if they want to play by their own rules.

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

Africa Channel broadens reach

By Lorinda M. Bullock
Special to Sentinel-Voice

WASHINGTON (NNPA) - Something may seem strangely familiar when U.S. audiences turn to the Africa Channel. On one show, 20 young women compete for a lucrative modeling contract. On another, tension builds among 12 housemates who have their every moved taped hoping to win a large prize at the end.

Did the cable wires get tangled? Are these the right programs on the wrong channel?

Actually, it's the Africa Channel's top-rated, "The Face of Africa" and "Big Brother Africa" television shows, where the contestant's home countries range from the Congo to South Africa.

If things go according to plan, Bob Reid, executive vice president and general manager at the Africa Channel, says by the end of this year, more Americans will get a realistic view of everyday, African life by watching popular shows and movies made by Africans and viewed in Africa.

"We've got everything from news and information, business news, investigative reporting, documentaries, travel, lifestyle, music, movies, soap operas, reality, so it's got every kind of programming you can imagine," Reid explained.

"It's all in English, it's all in very high quality, and virtually none of it has ever been seen before in the United States."

To those who cannot or have not gone to the Motherland, Africa is coming to America.

The Africa Channel was conceived and founded by James Makawa, a native of Zimbabwe, who is also the channel's CEO. The channel was first launched last September in Baton Rouge and New Orleans, La., only days after Hurricane Katrina ravaged the area. Despite those setbacks, Reid said the channel has gained momentum in those areas where Cox Communications is the major cable company providing the channel.

In March, another large cable provider Comcast, signed on and provides the channel in Atlanta. Most recently, Comcast has added the Africa Channel to its lineup for subscribers in the Washington, D.C., area this month.

"We are delighted to be

one of the first Comcast systems to launch the Africa Channel," said Tony Hollinger, Vice President/General Manager for Comcast of the District in a statement. "Bringing international and multicultural content to our subscribers underscores Comcast's dedication to diversity in our people, programming and partnerships," he said.

Reid said the channel is currently working out the details with other "big systems" to bring the Africa Channel to more cities. Because the details were pending at press time, Reid did not reveal the cities or the cable and satellite systems scheduled to provide the channel in the coming weeks.

In addition to the reality shows, the channel fills its

24-hour, seven-day, airtime schedule with South African soap operas like the catty and glamorous "Generations" and music shows such as "Africa Music," featuring four telegenic, youthful hosts, who wear traditional African jewelry and hairstyles with stylish jeans.

The channel also boasts powerful feature films by Africans and about Africans, documentaries and news shows such as "Carte Blanche Africa" and "Africa Journal" with hard-hitting, award-winning reports.

Reid said the channel works hard to preserve the culture in all of the shows as they are carefully reformatting to meet American television standards. If things are too culturally confusing for U.S. viewers, certain parts

are cut out and the channel uses small pop-ups at the bottom of the screen to help explain things during the shows.

Overall, Reid said the themes and ideas of the shows tend to cross countries and cultures, and both African and Americans audiences tend to love the reality shows and soaps most.

"Our feedback so far has been generally very, very positive. Initially, what we get from a lot of people is shock and awe and amazement that all the kinds of things we're showing actually exist. So many people have no idea that Africa has so much to offer," he said.

While the channel is geared toward all audiences, Reid said African-Americans (See Africa, Page 13)

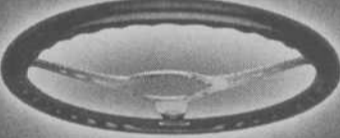

Rick Fox gets gig on FX's 'Dirt'

LOS ANGELES (AP) - Rick Fox may have given up basketball, but not the spotlight. The former Los Angeles Laker has scored a recurring role in the new FX television series "Dirt," his spokeswoman Lori Jonas said Tuesday.

Production begins this month on the hour-long drama, which stars Courteney Cox as the editor-in-chief of two top tabloids. Fox will play Prince Tyrese, Jonas said.

Fox, 37, has collected a handful of acting credits over the past 12 years, including "Holes," "Eddie," "He Got Game," and "The Collectors." He most recently appeared as a shirtless, sought-after masseur in the movie "Mini's First Time."

Fox was married to singer-actress Vanessa Williams for five years. The couple split in 2004 — the same year he retired from the National Basketball Association





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