



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 a Christian and I thought I was happily married. I think my husband may be having an affair with my cousin. He hasn't displayed any signs of cheating nor has his behavior changed. I looked at his cell phone bill and see that he's been calling my cousin on a more than regular basis. It pushed me over the edge when I came home late one night and found him at my cousin's house eating pizza and watching movies. Is there something going on or am I insecure?

Worried Christian
Natchez, MS

Dear Worried:

It's amazing that as a Christian you have the Word, but run when the world slaps you with a test of faith. Your husband doesn't need to call your cousin or any woman unless it's business. He should also be home late at night. Yes something is going on if you didn't know where he was and found him at your cousin's house. Share your concerns and suspicions with your husband, suggest a few rules concerning your cousin and keep it moving.

Dear Deanna!

I am over 40 and look very good for my age. I date younger men, love younger men and prefer intimacy with younger men. My daughter who is 20 years old is jealous of me and, at times, we've competed for the same love interests. She's not speaking to me now because her boyfriend left her and now he wants to date me. My daughter is important but she can't control my love life. Should I just let this young man go to make her happy or keep him?

Good Looking Mom
Los Angeles, CA

Dear Good Looking:

You may look good for your age, but there's nothing cute about scooping up your daughter's leftovers. She's right to be upset and no man should make you this foolish to not understand her feelings. You've obviously mistaken her embarrassment for jealousy. You need to grow up and be the parent in this relationship and put your daughter's concerns before any man. In other words, don't be nasty going behind your daughter and you need to choose her instead of her boyfriend.

Dear Deanna!

I want to have a baby but my boyfriend is against it. He wants to wait until we get married but he has no plans to propose soon. He has threatened that he will leave me if I trick him and come up pregnant. My clock is ticking and I want a baby before I get too old. I don't understand what the problem is and I am willing to end this relationship if things don't change soon. How do I express the seriousness of this baby issue with my boyfriend?

Tanisha
Jacksonville, FL

Dear Tanisha:

Your relationship is missing the word marriage, your boyfriend doesn't have the title of husband, so going ahead with your baby plan equals ignorance. Your boyfriend should realize he can't be tricked into pregnancy if he protects himself, especially if your little clock is ticking. If he hasn't proposed on his own will, pregnancy won't change his intent or urgency. Face it, he's not interested in a baby or marriage right now and you can either love it or leave it.

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.

Black Press getting ignored

Special to Sentinel-Voice
PASADENA, Calif. (NNPA) - Members of the West Coast Black Publishers, an organization of approximately 30 African-American-owned newspapers throughout California, Arizona, Nevada, Washington, and Oregon, along with the California Black Media organization attended a press conference, called by the Pasadena Journal News at the Pasadena Playhouse on September 1 to protest discriminatory treatment.

The protest was held after charges of discrimination in advertising practices by the Playhouse were leveled by Pasadena Journal Publisher, Attorney Joe C. Hopkins, in the paper's August 31 issue. Hopkins also complained that the theater has an outreach program to benefit young people and that program has not been advertised in his paper as being available to African-American youth.

The September 1 call to action was initiated by Hopkins when he realized that his publication, which is the only African-American newspaper in Pasadena, received absolutely no advertising purchases for this year's production of August Wilson's play, "Fences."

When the press conference was called, it was discovered that the Pasadena Journal News was not the only Black publication to receive such treatment. Certain local members of the West Coast Black Publishers and California Black Media revealed that just before the opening of the play "Fences" they were called and told that the tickets they had been promised were no longer available.

Publisher Melanie Polk of the L.A. Watts Times had confirmed that she would attend on September 1, but was later called by the Playhouse and told that she would need to attend on another night. Paulette Brown Hines of the Riverside Black Voice News also confirmed for September 1, but was called and told she would need to attend on another night, and then the Playhouse called her back and told that there were absolutely no tickets for her company.

Publisher Brian Townsend, publisher of the Precinct Reporter in the San Bernardino area, who, after receiving an invitation to attend on September 1, extended more than \$1,000 in color advertising and press release coverage for free in

his newspaper, said when he called to RSVP, he was told there were no tickets for him. After he protested, tickets were provided. On September 1, the Playhouse was doing damage control for Black newspapers and those who showed up were all allowed in to see the play.

Hopkins alleged that the Pasadena Playhouse spends its advertising dollars with White-owned newspapers, while ignoring the Black Press, except through their non-paying marketing strategies. Those strategies include free press releases sent to the Black Press and soliciting Black audiences through African-American sororities and social groups such as the Links to form theater parties.

Hopkins does not criticize the age-old practice of holding theater parties or direct sales approaches. He feels, however, money from Black groups go to support advertising for White-owned newspapers, while many Black press newspapers are snubbed. Black plays for next year's season are already being promoted to Black audiences.

Black groups are approached for their attendance only when there are what is

known as "Black plays" by "Black writers," and in Pasadena, that is one or two times a year. Hopkins likens this to the days when Blacks in Pasadena were only allowed to go to the public swimming pool at Brookside Park near the Rose Bowl one day per week. The pool would then be drained and re-filled before the White public returned to the swimming pool the next day.

Theater directors, in their efforts to deny any intentional discriminatory policy, are stating that the Pasadena Journal News, in the advertising negotiations, refused to accept tickets in trade for advertising space. The newspaper's management states that, in good faith on their past amicable relationship with the Playhouse, for two weeks in a row they held out full-page space ordered by Playhouse representatives, but the theater's representative never sent the ads, leaving the newspaper to scramble on publication day to fill full-page space.

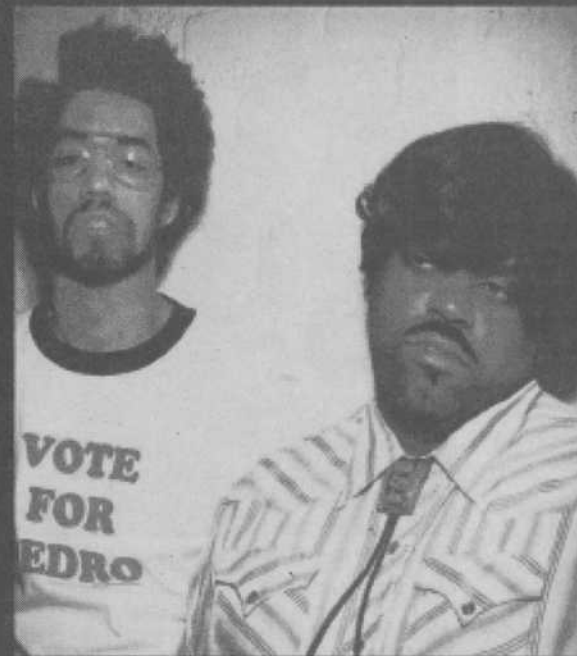
It is widely believed that Black plays have become the life's blood of the Pasadena Playhouse in the last few years with the addition of Sheldon Epps, an African-American, as the artistic di-

rector. Hopkins believes that the arts community of Pasadena and other California communities that annually bring in millions of dollars through plays, jazz concerts and festivals, such as Pasadena's Old Town Jazz Festival and the Playboy Jazz Festival all discriminate in their advertising buys and need to stop. The audiences to these events are predominately African-American, and the entertainers are Black artists, but White-owned media, promoters and producers take the dollars home.

Hopkins, a practicing attorney in the discrimination and civil rights field, believes that economic justice need not be controversial but that it is always an issue in today's America. He believes that African-American business people, such as caterers, florists, photographers, maintenance companies, and others, need to take a look at where the money being spent by Black audiences is going.

Hopkins will request a summit of the West Coast Black Publishers Association and the California Black Media to determine what further action should be taken to guarantee a fair share of the arts dollars in California.

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