



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 and I are trying to get married. I have no interest in a big wedding or spending tons of money on a honeymoon. I prefer saving for a home. My fiancé has a different idea. She wants a big wedding, the church and a trip to the Virgin Islands. We're on the brink of breaking up because I won't compromise all the way and let her have her way. I'm willing to make the wedding a good memory but I'm not going broke to do it. What do I do?

Michael
Indianapolis, IN

Dear Michael:

In this day and age, your fiancé should feel blessed to have someone wanting to marry and do the right thing. Most women want big weddings so they can show off to their family and friends and look silly three years later when they divorce. The most you should do is set a budget and make her get the most out of those funds. A peaceful solution is to get married with a simple wedding, buy your home and have a big celebration when you renew your vows.

Dear Deanna!

I've had it with my girlfriend and her pet obsession. We've been together for two years. All of a sudden, she's become an overnight dog lover. Every time I turn around, the little dog is in my face. My girlfriend is rude when she has it on her lap at the table, she brings in a box to the movies, and she lets it in the bed with us. There are too many women out there for me to be held hostage by a dog. Am I wrong to say she needs to choose the dog or me?

Brian
Orlando, FL

Dear Brian:

You're a grown man and you let an animal control your relationship? You should've had this discussion the first time the dog came to the dinner table. Just like children, pets have a time and place to be seen and involved, and a dog is no different. However, your girlfriend needs to grow up and learn how to be mature and manage her man and her pooch. If there's no commitment and she chooses to keep her habits with the dog, then suck it up and keep it moving.

Dear Deanna!

I can't reach my boyfriend on an emotional level. I try to connect and encourage conversation in hopes he'll tell me how he feels about me. When I ask, he says the relationship is fine, he's happy and things are okay. I feel like I'm starving for attention and I need to hear things verbally. He says I'm making a big deal out of nothing. The more I ask, the more he resists and now we're arguing. Should I be content and not worry until he says something is wrong?

Worried Heart
Buffalo, NY

Dear Worried:

Your insecurity is going to wreck this relationship. You should observe your man's behavior very closely. Some men show affection through action instead of words. Pay attention to things he does to bond with you, and if it makes sense, go with the flow. On the other hand, if he's a cold fish in his actions and verbal communication, you have reason to worry. If this is the case, demand some dialogue and decide if you want to stay in this situation or free yourself and move on.

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Blacks urged to keep giving

By Todd Luck
Special to Sentinel-Voice
Winston-Salem, N.C. (NNPA) - Emmett Carson, one of the nation's foremost Black philanthropy advocates, spoke recently to an audience of about 180 listeners at Winston-Salem State University about the importance of giving back and investing in the Black community.

"I want to suggest to you Black philanthropy has ev-

Prevention

(Continued from Page 5)

"When you take a look in the African-American community, they still don't get it," he said. "They still think it's a gay disease... while the HIV rate is skyrocketing in our community."

Cancer death rates are dropping among African-Americans, but the gap between Blacks and Whites remains large, according to the American Cancer Society.

The CDC also reported that smoking is more common among African-American men than White men, which may help explain the disparity in lung cancer cases and deaths. Being overweight or obese, which can raise the risk of many cancers, is more common in African-American women than White women. And overall, Blacks are less physically active than Whites. Enough exercise can lower the risk of some cancers.

"Vigorous action must be directed to prevent disease, promote overall health and deliver appropriate care

Vaccination

(Continued from Page 5)

you can get them at the 15 and 18 months," Long said.

According to the study, as many as 79 percent of children now get the recommended shots that fight diphtheria, tetanus, chickenpox, polio, whooping cough, measles, mumps, rubella, hepatitis B and Haemophilus influenzae.

Long said at her north Philadelphia hospital with predominately Black patients, she's found that cases of Haemophilus influenzae have been eliminated, thanks to a united front of parents, schools and the state of Pennsylvania.

"Before we had that (vaccination) we had 60 cases of meningitis due to Hib at this institution every year. And we haven't had a case of Haemophilus influenzae for years," she said.

The study did reveal some racial differences by individual vaccine. The CDC reported that in comparison to White children, chickenpox vaccination rates were higher for Black and Hispanic children. As for four-dose vaccinations of tetanus, diphtheria, whooping cough and pneumococcal conjugate vaccines, White children had them in greater numbers than Blacks and Hispanics.

Long said the CDC's results make her hopeful that even more childhood diseases can eventually be better "controlled" or even "eradicated."

She said, "These vaccines are, in my opinion, miracles and we have to keep working that miracle everyday and work it for everybody's children."

everything to do with race," said Carson, who has published more than 75 works on philanthropy and social justice.

He is currently the president and CEO of the Minneapolis Foundation. He has been selected as leader of the new Silicon Valley Community Foundation. The California-based foundation is one of the largest in the nation, with assets of \$1.35 billion.

Carson defined Black phi-

lanthropy as the giving of money, time, talent or services to a charitable cause, no matter how big or small the donation. He traced the roots of Black philanthropy through history, noting that the conditions African-Americans lived in dictated what they could give.

Even during slavery, he said, Blacks helped one another, often in secret. Carson reminded the audience that former slaves went on to

form the first Black churches and the first mutual aid societies in America by pooling their money and resources. He said they created a tradition of Black philanthropy that continued through segregation and into the present day.

"It's not what somebody gave to us, it's what we have given ourselves as part of our tradition," Carson said.

He said the tradition of (See Giving, Page 9)

health disparity," she said.

Lathan-Saddler said that some of the health disparities among African-Americans can be attributed to denial and also to a lack of trust in the healthcare system. Furthermore, she calls "syncretism" another cause for inaction because of the blended, differing systems of belief and values among Blacks which are sometimes conflictive for the individual, family and the community.

Rift

(Continued from Page 3)

the criminal problem."

Roshondra Lowe, 29, an evacuee from New Orleans who was among about 30 people attending the meeting, said she doesn't want Houstonians to prejudge displaced residents like herself.

"It's a bunch of nonsense," she said, citing the city's high crime rate before the storm.

A representative for Mayor Bill White said that crime overall is down in Houston but there are some areas that were hotspots before the hurricane and continue to be.

"Mr. Pruett has made his career as a shock jock and is using this tactic to sell guns," spokesperson Frank Michel said. "The vast majority of evacuees who came here are hardworking, law-abiding citizens."

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