



ASK DEANNA!
*Real People,
Real Advice*

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

Dear Deanna!

I am happily single and really enjoy life. My family and friends keep annoying me and saying I should be in a relationship. I am tired of them blindsiding me with dates, hook-ups and single men. I protect myself when it comes to sex and work hard and make my own money. How do I tell my family thanks, but no thanks?

Single and Loving It
Tampa, FL

Dear Single:

If you're happy and having the time of your life then you should tell your family to mind their own business. If you're not displaying the signs of a desperate woman in need of a man, they should back off. You're independent in more ways than one and your family should respect that. Let everyone know that you're happy, not seeking a relationship at this time, but when you do, you'll ask for referrals. Until then, stay safe, make good decisions and keep it moving.

Dear Deanna!

I want to respond to the Wrong Groom in Washington D.C. He was wrong because if he didn't want to marry his girlfriend he should not have offered a proposal. He was even wrong to watch her family spend money when all he had to do was open his mouth and stop everything. She should take him to court and sue him for the money spent as well as pain and suffering.

Stacy
Online Reader

Dear Stacy:

You seem to have all the answers and it sounds as if you've been through the ringer a few times with men. Your points are well taken although a bit extreme. Many things in relationships can be handled with simple communication and no need to mess with the law unless there's abuse. His offer to pay the money back doesn't right the wrong. However to some, it's not enough and is equivalent to putting a band-aid on a chimney for a roof repair.

Dear Deanna!

My mother-in-law is causing tension in my marriage. She's sexy, youthful and has implants but I'm not attracted to her. I am happy with my wife. My wife has self-esteem issues because of her weight and sees her mom as competition. I often tell her that her mother is fake because of the plastic surgery. Our marriage is suffering because my wife has it in her mind that I want her mother. Is there anything I can do in order to boost her self-esteem?

James
Topeka, KS

Dear James:

You have no business commenting on your mother-in-laws implants nor calling her sexy. This makes it look as if you've spent time looking at her and sizing her up. You wife has been observing your behavior and actions in the presence of her mother and it has made her insecure. If your wife sees her mom as competition, she needs to lose weight, improve her appearance and work on her own happiness. Your encouragement, coupled with her self-improvement is the solution to bringing the happiness back and saving your marriage.

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.

Whitaker's Oscar buzz due

By Kam Williams
Special to Sentinel-Voice

Born on July 15, 1961, in Longview, Texas, Forest Steven Whitaker was originally an athlete who played football in college at Cal-State Fullerton. But a back injury led to his transferring to USC where he trained as a tenor for the opera. This endeavor whetted Forest's interest in the acting, which he pursued at Berkeley.

Next, the 6'2" teddy bear ventured to England where he proceeded to perfect his craft onstage at the Drama Studio London before returning to the states to make a modest screen debut in "Fast Times at Ridgemont High." He followed that up with bit parts on such TV series as "Hill Street Blues," "Cagney & Lacey" and "Different Strokes" before landing back on the big screen in "The Color of Money," "Platoon," and "Good Morning, Vietnam."

But his big break arrived in 1988 when he handled the title role in "Bird," the Clint Eastwood bio-pic chronicling the troubled life and times of jazz legend Charlie Parker. Still, Whitaker earned even more critical acclaim for "The Crying Game," although two other actors in the movie earned Academy Award nominations.

Since then, Forest has done phenomenal work in films like "Panic Room," "Ghost Dog," "Jason's Lyric" and "American Gun," but he's never managed to garner any serious Oscar consideration. All that might change after "The Last King of Scotland," where he delivers another mesmerizing performance; this one, as Ugandan dictator Idi Amin. Here, Forest reflects on this latest role, a fitting capstone on a magnificent career.

KW: What interested you in the role?

FW: As an artist, it's a great opportunity to play a character like this. And then, as a person, I had never been to the African continent. So, I knew, personally, it would reshape me.

KW: And how did it reshape you?

FW: It reshaped my point of view of colonialism. It reshaped my point of view of my own sense of source, and my own place of birth. It made it more organic inside of me, because it placed me in a position where my job was to understand and to become more African. That was



"As an artist, it's a great opportunity to play a character like this."

— Forest Whitaker

an unbelievable opportunity. I could never have gone to Africa another way and had the same experience. It was my job and my joy at the same time.

KW: Was it a life-transforming experience?

FW: It touched something really deep inside of me, really. It changed my matrix, my insides. My blood even feels kinda different. I don't know how to describe it. It's really kind of Eucharistic. I feel like I ate the place and now it's part of my system, part of my being. I'm not claiming that now I know what it's like to be African, but that now I have a deeper understanding of myself.

KW: What measures did you take to prepare yourself for this role?

FW: Well, I started by studying Kiswahili to learn the dialect. Then, I studied tapes, documentaries, footage, and audio cassettes of Idi Amin's speeches. And I met with his brothers, his sisters, his ministers, his generals... all kinds of people, in order to try to understand him.

KW: You also seem to have undergone a significant physical transformation for the role.

FW: I did gain some more weight for the character. And since Idi Amin was from the Sudanese section in the north

of Uganda, he was darker skinned. He had more of a blue undertone. So, we did change the coloring of my skin to be closer to his. But otherwise, there were no transformations besides acting.

KW: Did it help to shoot the film in Africa?

FW: I certainly don't think I could've played the character the same way without being in Uganda. I loved working in Uganda.

KW: What did you love about the country?

FW: I found the people to be very kind and generous. It was unique because the crew was mainly Ugandan. They had never done a film before, so they were learning the process of making films, but at the same time, they were also helping with the authenticity of the film.

KW: How did you find yourself affected by being in Uganda?

FW: I think the place fed me completely. Not only was I in Uganda, but I was around many people who had a personal relationship with Idi Amin. I was eating the food constantly. I was culturally hanging out with the people. You can't help but absorb the energy, and try to get inside the culture.

KW: Would you say, then, that making the movie in Af-

rica was critical?

FW: Really trying to understand, inside, what it is to be Ugandan was crucial to the character, because there are Ugandan ways of doing things that I was trying to capture. Even if I had made this movie in South Africa, it would not have been the same, because it is so specific to Uganda.

KW: How do the people of Uganda feel about the late Amin today?

FW: It's kind of a duality. There are people who hate him, a small amount, and then there are the people who really admire him, like a hero. And then, there's a large group who say, "We know that all these murders and atrocities occurred, but he did all these great things."

KW: What do you see as the movie's message?

FW: There's a couple. One has to do with the corruption of power, because it deals with friendship, betrayal, and how power corrupts. Then, also, more importantly, I think it deals with the foreign powers coming into a country and dictating the way the people should live and what they should believe, putting leaders into positions, and what kind of monsters are created from that type of behavior.

KW: How do you feel about your performance generating some early Oscar buzz?

FW: It makes me feel good, because I've been working really hard. And this character, I worked particularly hard on. But I don't want to get too caught up in it, because first of all, it could lead to a great disappointment. You never know what's going to happen...

RE-ELECT
"BOBBY G" GRONAUER
*A Combat Veteran
A Police Veteran of the Streets*

**Dedicated To
His Country and Community**

From the desk of
ROBERT "BOBBY G" GRONAUER

Dear Friends,
I sincerely thank you for your support in my past two elections and I again ask for your vote in my re-election as your Las Vegas Township Constable. Together, we will continue to make a difference.

*Thank You
Bobby G.*

Paid Pol. Adv. by the Friends to Elect "Bobby G" Gronauer