



ASK DEANNA!
*Real People,
Real Advice*

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

Dear Deanna!

I had a divorce party celebrating the end of my marriage. My ex-husband came to the party with a girlfriend half his age, his family started a fight and the party was a disaster. Things were great until someone got drunk and started talking about the bad things in our marriage that caused our divorce. Initially my husband agreed to help pay for the party but now that we have damages, I'm stuck with the bills. Is it wrong to take him to court to get my money?

Happily Divorced
Washington, D.C.

Dear Divorced:

Your husband obviously didn't give you much when you were married so you should expect even less now that you're divorced. You were foolish to make a mockery of marriage and divorce with this party and, in essence, you got what you deserved. You're going to face further embarrassment, airing of dirty laundry and humiliation if you take this clown show to court. Suck it up, count your loss and keep it moving.

Dear Deanna!

I believe you can love two people at once. I have two girlfriends and need to be open and honest with both of them: I get certain things from each woman that helps me have a whole relationship. When I want seriousness and structure, I go to the left, and when I want to be laid back and free, I go to the right. I would never disrespect either woman and truly love each one. How do I approach this with these ladies with respect and hopes of keeping them both?

Mason
Oklahoma City, Okla.

Dear Mason:

With the growing issues of infidelity and HIV, you're playing a sloppy game of Russian Roulette with your life. No matter how much you love these ladies, you're selfish and living as a liar, a cheater and being deceptive. You can approach them separately with direct verbal communication. If they have low self-esteem and are willing to share a man, more power to you. However, you may get slapped in the face and dumped, which may be a blessing in disguise.

Dear Deanna!

I've been so in love with one of my best friends for six years. He doesn't pay me any attention and I poured my heart out and told him I want to date him. He laughed at me, rubbed the top of my head and told me that my confession was cute. I feel embarrassed and it seems as if our friendship isn't the same. Did I make a mistake by sharing my feelings and is there a way I can fix this? I want things to go back to being the way they were.

Michelle
Online Reader

Dear Michelle:

Your friend views you only as a pal especially since he rubbed the top of your head like a dog. You didn't make a mistake because you at least know that you don't have a romantic chance or hopes for a relationship. Look on the bright side and be glad you didn't throw yourself at him sexually and make a bigger fool of yourself. Get over it, be thankful you have a good friend and be a good sport as you look back on this experience and have a good laugh.

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Documentary rehashes death-by-cop incident

By C. Denise Johnson
Special to Sentinel-Voice

PITTSBURGH (NNPA) - On that foreboding autumn night in 1995, there was no indication the trajectory of the events to occur would be the catalyst for an ongoing movement.

NOMMO Productions has just released an updated version of the documentary "Enough is ENOUGH! The Death of Jonny Gammage." NOMMO and the Thomas Merton Center hosted a private screening last week to remember Gammage on the 11th anniversary of his death and to celebrate several milestones for the project.

"Enough is ENOUGH!" examines Gammage's death, caused by positional asphyxiation during a "routine traffic stop," involving five police officers (none of whom was ever convicted.) The documentary shows citizens' outrage and the progressive changes in law enforcement after his death. Due to public outcry generated by grassroots activism, Pittsburgh police were forced to operate for several years under the scrutiny of a federal consent decree, and the Citizen Police Review Board was formed.

The re-edited documentary is the result of 10 years worth of research, interviews and review of broadcast footage of the subsequent protests, as well countless hours spent in the editing bay to produce a cohesive project.

The new hour-long video features new narration by actor Danny Glover and additional footage of subsequent cases of police misuse of force from across the country.

"I was riveted by the documentary," said Glover, discussing his reasons for getting involved in the project. "It was one of the compelling examples of how, given certain circumstances, we do find ways to empower ourselves."

"(Pittsburgh filmmaker and documentary producer) Billy Jackson sent me a copy of the documentary and I was moved by it, so much so I consented to do the narrative," Glover said last spring. Asked why he would get involved in a local story, he said, "It's just one example of the continuing trend across the country. If I can help to position the project to

reach a larger audience and continue to stimulate dialogue, perhaps we can eventually arrive at a place of healing."

October 12 was also the launch date for the ENOUGH project's website, NOMMOProductions.com, part of a nationwide distribution initiative funded in part by grants from the Maurice Falk Fund and Three Rivers Community Foundation.

The site features a new trailer and a special section with resources for organizations that purchase the DVD and organize a screening. Screeners can access posters, news releases, sample programs, and a guide for facilitating community forums and grassroots organizing around the issues.

"In order to make the DVD available to everyone," explains Billy Jackson, "the price will be on a sliding scale according to the purchasing organization's annual budget. Proceeds from DVD sales will be used to pay down remaining post-production debts and support further distribution, and we will donate 15 percent of proceeds to the Jonny Gammage Scholarship Fund."

The Fund, which is administered by the Black and White Reunion, an organization created in the aftermath of the Gammage incident, awards scholarships to law students with an interest in civil rights law.

Despite the forward movement, however, the core issues have changed little. Police violence and racial profiling still occur across the country. The project is working to make these realities history by educating the public on the issues and solutions.

"It's important to remember and to recognize that the Gammage tragedy is not an isolated issue, and even after the Rodney King beating, Gammage was killed as a result of excessive force," admonished Jackson.

Jackson has already hit the film festival circuit with the documentary in tow and received positive feedback, particularly when it was screened this summer at the Roxbury Film Festival in Boston.

C. Denise Johnson writes for the New Pittsburgh Courier.

Study

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slavery are still felt by African-Americans who are economically and socially disadvantaged and are discriminated against continually by unequal access to education and health care, said State Senator Mattie Hunter, senate sponsor of the resolution. Rep. Eddie Washington was the House sponsor.

"It was a dark and tragic part of our country when it supported slavery. (The study) will explore the wealth generated at the expense of denying people their freedom," Hunter said.

But reparations, Worrill said, are not a part of the objective of the study.

"This is not a study about reparations. The process itself is reparations," he said. "If (the commission) recommends reparations, then that's a part of their recommendation."

The commission's study will explore the entire truth behind the slave trade, including the involvement of Africans, Worrill said.

"Yes, some of our people were involved in the slave trade. And the brothers stand-

ing on the corner slinging rock are analogous to those (Africans) who participated in the slave trade," he said. "The dope trade is controlled by Europeans and the slave trade was controlled by Europeans."

Thompson, who serves as a professor at the Center for Inner City Studies, called the "house of horrors" that was the transatlantic slave trade the greatest attack on humanity.

"We're not limiting ourselves to what happened in

North America. We want to get into what forces brought this institution into existence," Thompson said. "This is a challenging task, but we're going to hit the mark."

Commissioners hope to establish television programs based on their research provide a catalyst for dialogue and produce discussion guides that can be used in schools.

Thompson said the completed study could also serve as a model for other legislatures or institutions to do

similar work.

Once the study is complete, Americans will be able to comprehend the past fully, said State Rep. Karen Yarbrough.

"We are ashamed of being slaves, but it's not our fault that it happened," she said. "We only need to look in our communities to see that schools don't teach our history and the economic gulf between the haves and the have-nots."

Mema Ayi writes for the Chicago Defender.

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