



ASK DEANNA!
*Real People,
Real Advice*

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

Dear Deanna!

I broke up with my boyfriend over something silly, and now I regret my actions. I thought he was cheating on me with my best friend, but they were actually buying me a gift. I said some horrible things to both of them, and they're not speaking to me. I want to get back with him, but I think he is looking at my friend because she seems more mature than me. What should I do if they start dating? I know it's my fault, but it's going to tear me apart.

Made a Mistake
Atlanta, GA

Dear Mistake:

You obviously have trust issues if you can't feel secure with your mate or your friends. Your foolish tongue has caused you to lose your relationship and your friend. The only thing you can do is apologize to both parties and ask your boyfriend for another chance. If he says no and goes with your buddy, then you learned a valuable lesson, and if they'll do this in your face, you didn't need them anyway.

Dear Deanna!

I allowed myself to get pregnant because my boyfriend convinced me that we would be together and we were going to get married. Now I am almost ready to deliver the baby and he has changed his mind. He moved out of my house, and now he's not working, and he is living with his mother. I am so upset and don't know what to do. How do I handle this situation?

Anika
Online Reader

Dear Anika:

You lost your sense when you decided to fall for the oldest trick in the book. There is no way you should've become pregnant without a husband and a plan. You're getting ready to be stuck with a baby, a bill for 18 years and a stupid looking deadbeat dad. You need to look at your resources, get your money and education together and grow up. When the baby is born, have a DNA test, get your child support, and be ready to raise your child and keep it moving.

Dear Deanna!

My mother is being taken advantage of by her best friend. My mother is retired, has plenty of money saved up and she's enjoying the finer things in life. Her best friend is a moocher and makes my mom pay for everything. My mother is lonely and doesn't have any friends, so she thinks nothing of it. This woman is going through her money left and right, and I know she's going to look up and one day be broke. How do I get through to her?

Concerned Daughter
Oklahoma City, OK

Dear Daughter:

Your mother is enjoying life and her friend. Before you place judgment or get in the middle of things, ask your mom if she's preparing for a rainy day. If she is, you can rest assured that she knows what she's doing and is planning her finances wisely. You're on the outside looking in and have no idea of their friendship. You can calm down and chill and let your mom and her girlfriend do their thing. Feel secure knowing that if she needs you, she'll let you know.

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

Black groups oppose video bill

By Matthew Little
Special to Sentinel-Voice

Minneapolis (NNPA) - Representatives of the local Urban League and NAACP spoke in opposition to a bill labeled "The Minnesota Video Competition Act," which they and others say could prove harmful to diversity programming and access to service for many low-income and ethnic communities.

Urban League's Community Development Coordinator Cheryl Morgan-Spencer, representing Urban League Executive Director Clarence Hightower and the local organization, said she fears that the bill, as worded, could result in redlining of certain low-income and minority areas, permitting providers to cherry-pick programming.

Testimony was made before the Minnesota House Telecommunication, Regulations and Infrastructure Committee recently.

Rep. Sheldon Johnson (DFL-St. Paul) sponsored the bill, referred to in testimony

as the Statewide Franchising Act.

It proposes to establish competitive video services throughout the state by requiring the various providers of service to be authorized under conditions set by the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission.

NAACP President Duane Reed presented argument against the passage of the legislation, emphasizing that the new proposal contained no stipulations for broad coverage to the many diverse markets of the state.

Morgan-Spencer maintained that the legislation contained no guarantee that all areas would be provided equal programming. When challenged by a committee member, Rep. Paul Thisen (DFL-Mpls.), she held her position and agreed to provide documentation.

Several representatives of the telecommunications industry also joined the two community advocates in opposition to the legislation. One of the most forceful and

articulate was Pete Rose of WRNB cable music channel.

Rose and his wife Kim have been in the industry for 22 years and are the only licensed African-American operatives in the state. Rose argued that his station represented the rapidly increasing numbers of non-White consumers that do not necessarily identify with mainstream video.

He suggested that although people of color, of late, are being utilized more frequently, they are not always scripted to represent the true multicultural dimensions of the diverse community. He, too, supported the contention that the new bill presented an opening for diminished access for minority communities.

Several other representatives of the telecommunications industry gave testimony in opposition to the proposed legislation:

Randy Young, Minn. Association for Rural Telecommunications; Greg Moore, NW Suburban Cable Com-

munications Commission; and Bill Jensen, regional vice president of Mediacom Communications Corp., among others.

Jensen, says his company provides video, Internet and voice production to 200 communities, mostly in rural Minnesota, and insisted that the legislation is useless if the intent is, as stated, to promote competition in the industry. He maintains that there is plenty of competition throughout the state.

Jensen stated that his company not only has competition from other satellite companies, but from nearly 40 telephone companies. He concluded by asking, "If it ain't broke, why fix it?"

The committee did not vote on the bill, opting to hold it over for further discussion and to hear further testimony on April 13, which leaves little time or possibility of it becoming law during this legislative session.

Matthew Little writes for the Minnesota Spokesman-Recorder.

Hip-Hop jeweler faces Detroit trial

DETROIT (AP) - The celebrity jeweler known in the hip-hop world as "Jacob the Jeweler" will stand trial on money laundering charges here after a federal judge recently denied his request to move the case to New York.

Jacob Arabov was arrested in June 2006 at his store in New York on a warrant issued in Detroit. Federal authorities accused him and 16 others of conspiring to launder about \$270 million in drug profits beginning in the early 1990s for a multi-state drug ring operating out of Detroit.

Arabov, 41, has pleaded not guilty.

His attorney, Benjamin Brafman, argued that it would be prejudicial for his client to stand trial alongside drug-dealing suspects and too costly to defend himself in Detroit. But U.S. District Judge Avern Cohn disagreed.

"You should prepare yourself for a trial in the Eastern District of Michigan," Cohn said.

Arabov, a Russian immigrant also known as the "King of Bling," became popular among hip-hop and R&B artists in the mid-1990s. Notorious B.I.G., Madonna, Kanye West and Elton John have all worn his baubles.



Hip-hop jeweler Jacob Arabov, right and smiling widely, seen with Grammy Award-winning Atlanta rapper Ludacris.

Roker does child obesity documentary

NEW YORK (AP) - As a youngster, Al Roker shopped for clothes in the "husky" section of the department store, "like someone was going to strap me to a dog sled."

The phrase may be out of style, but the need for plus-sized clothes has only increased. The 52-year-old NBC personality kept his own experiences with weight control in mind while producing a documentary on childhood obesity for the Food Network.

"Childhood Obesity: Danger Zone" premiered Saturday (9 p.m. EDT) on the cable

network.

The documentary explores why more than 12 million children and teenagers have serious weight problems and the health risks they face. It profiles young people who have successfully turned things around.

"If you run the numbers out, this would be the first generation that has a shorter life span than their parents," Roker told The Associated Press. "That's scary."

Obesity in young people has quadrupled in 40 years, he said. Many factors con-

tribute: sugary junk food made attractive by relentless television advertising, the rise in fast-food restaurants, sedentary kids more interested in video games or computers than running in the yard, and schools that don't offer much physical education anymore.

"Parents bear a responsibility," he said. "Children model what they see. So, if you, as a parent, are not eating well and do not lead an active lifestyle, that's what they are going to do."

Roker makes his living as

the "Today" show's weatherman, but his younger children, ages 8 and 4, don't watch him. He bans television during the week.

His 8-year-old daughter stays busy with sports, but since she inherited dad's body type, weight control is an issue.

"The Rokers are a stocky group," he said. "We're from the Caribbean. We're built low to the ground and stocky to withstand hurricanes."

Roker, married to fellow television personality (See Roker, Page 6)