



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 having a challenge with my new girlfriend. She is adorable, nice and sweet but her hygiene and housekeeping habits are horrible. She can cook, but she leaves dishes in the kitchen for a week, never vacuums and her cat walks around the house. I always thought I could handle most things in this relationship but this is a bit much. We make love in a dirty bed, cat hair is everywhere and there's never any clean dishes. How do I gently handle this issue?

Clean Man
Online Reader

Dear Clean Man:

Your girlfriend is a slob and it'll take an infection or food poisoning to get her to see the light. If you want to drink out of a dirty glass and have cat hair in your throat hang in there with it. If this cramps your style, surprise your girlfriend with a few visits from a cleaning service and hope she gets the hint. If this doesn't help then tell her to clean her house and keep it clean or you're gone. If she chooses dirt over you, say goodbye and keep it moving.

Dear Deanna!

My uncle is newly divorced and he's driving me crazy. He always wants to go to the club, hang out and drink. I don't mind going out with him every now and then but he comes over every day, eating dinner and begging me to go out. At first, my girlfriend was okay, but now she's forcing me to turn him away, not take his phone calls and avoid him. He's my favorite uncle and I don't want to hurt him, but I don't want to hurt my girlfriend either. What do I do?

Nephew John
Pasadena, CA

Dear Nephew John:

Apparently your uncle doesn't know much about responsibility, thus his divorce. Although you have an obligation to put family first, you must never sacrifice your relationship for nonsense. Have a talk with your uncle and tell him that you want your relationship to work and you can only go out with him on a conservative basis. If he doesn't understand then he's selfish and deserves to go out alone.

Dear Deanna!

I have gained a lot of weight and I feel that my husband is falling out of love with me. He's not intimate with me, we don't cuddle and he always acts as if I'm annoying him. I am trying to diet but it is so stressful sitting by watching and feeling that I'm losing my husband. He claims that he still loves me but his actions are extremely different from the words he says. What can I do to recapture the fire and energy in my marriage?

Overweight Wife
Toledo, OH

Dear Overweight:

If you're having these feelings, there's no sense denying there's some truth to what's going on. The best way to tell if your husband is slipping is for you to lose weight. You need to be happy with good self-esteem. Once you get back into your zone, measure your husband's activity and behavior towards you. If things don't change, you have a problem that goes beyond weight. Be prepared for a discussion and seek honest answers regarding your relationship.

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

Celebs salute Ella Fitzgerald

LOS ANGELES (AP) — "You can only be an innovator once... and I hate that," joked Patti Austin backstage at a tribute to Ella Fitzgerald.

Austin joined host Natalie Cole, Wynonna Judd, Nancy Wilson and other singers and musicians covering tunes by Fitzgerald at the "We Love Ella: A Tribute to the First Lady of Song" on Sunday night.

The tribute, held at the University of Southern California's Galen Center, marked what would have been Fitzgerald's 90th birthday on April 25. The singer died in 1996.

Backed by USC's Thornton Symphony and Jazz Orchestra, instrumentalists George Duke, James Moody and Jon Faddis covered Fitzgerald's classic 1950s recording "Lady Be



Patti Austin participated in a star-studded tribute to the late Ella Fitzgerald on Sunday at Galen Center in Los Angeles.

Good." Newcomer Lizz Wright cooed "Lullaby of Birdland."

Saxman Dave Koz riffed with "American Idol" Ruben Studdard on "Do Nothing 'Til You Hear From Me," and a capella act Take 6 bopped

to an original tune inspired by Fitzgerald's stylings.

"When it comes to vocal scatting, we feel like we're her great-godsons," said Take 6 member Alvin Chea.

Stevie Wonder brought the audience to their feet with

"Too Close for Comfort."

"Ella didn't care about the words because she thought like a horn," noted Quincy Jones, a longtime collaborator. "One of her biggest records, 'Mack the Knife,' in Berlin, she forgot all the words."

Fitzgerald's own peerless sounds were showcased in a montage of never-before-released tunes. The songs will be featured on "Love Letters From Ella," a collection of rare recordings to be issued July 31 by Starbucks Entertainment and Concord Records.

"We Love Ella," produced by Phil Ramone and Gregg Field for Thirteen/WNET New York, airs June 6 on PBS.

The companion tribute album will be released June 5 on Verve Records.

Post-Katrina, musicians eye help

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — Troy "Trombone Shorty" Andrews remembers hanging out at local jazz clubs with the Neville Brothers and knocking on the door of trumpeter Kermit Ruffins for help with a song he couldn't quite get.

But that was before Hurricane Katrina, when finding a musical mentor was easy. Some 20 months after Katrina flooded 80 percent of New Orleans, musicians young and old are struggling to ensure the jazz beats and rhythms born on the streets of New Orleans continue.

New Orleans' population is about half its pre-Katrina level, and the Black community — the wellspring of improvisational jazz — remains scattered around the country.

"It's a tough situation right now," said Andrews, among the crop of young musicians set to play at the New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Festival, which opened last weekend.

Young people are lucky if they can track down a musician to help these days, he said.

Many musicians are still living elsewhere, traveling farther for work, or working second jobs to make ends meet.

Since Katrina, formal music programs have become one of the best ways to unite musicians with youngsters wanting to learn, said the 21-year-old Andrews, himself a former student and teacher through a program offered by the Tipitina's

Foundation, a nonprofit organization dedicated to providing the city's public schools with instruments and helping artists recover from the hurricane.

While that program is geared for older students, another started by Black social clubs allows children as young as 3 years old to perform with bands on Saturday mornings at the New Orleans Jazz National Historical Park in the French Quarter.

"It's not just about teaching music but teaching etiquette, and where the music comes from," said Bruce Barnes, a park ranger, vocalist and musician who plays the accordion, harmonica and African drums.

For the past three months, Barnes had lined up the Treme Brass Band to work with the children. Recently, they performed with the Storyville Stompers Brass Band.

Eric "EJ" Calhoun, an 11-year-old drummer who attends Harry S. Truman Middle School in Marrero, La., beat the drums and tooted a red whistle to such songs as "When the Saints Go Marching In" and "A Closer Walk With Thee."

Calhoun will be among the young musicians performing in the children's tent at Jazz Fest.

Calhoun said he looks for any opportunity to perform with seasoned musicians.

"They show me a lot of things," he said.

"They'll tell me to keep

the tempo down, or about being ready, keeping the beat. It's pretty fun."

One of the programs in place before Katrina struck has been headed for six years by saxophonist Donald Harrison, a Jazz Fest regular.

In a recent mentor session, a dozen or so students met Harrison in a warehouse-turned-recording and rehearsal studio called the Music Shed, where the group performed "The Girl from Ipanema" — but with a New Orleans spin.

As the students played their trumpets, drums, guitars and piano, Harrison would at times stop to show them how to hold the instrument differently or play it differently.

Mostly, he directed. "Make me feel it," he told them, stomping his feet, clapping his hands.

Ultimately, Andrews says, it's going to be up to the musicians to keep the musical culture alive as New Orleans recovers.

"We have to step up," he said.

Stacie Truesdell for Ward 5, Las Vegas City Council

STACIE TRUESDELL FOR WARD 5

Las Vegas City Council • www.stacietruesdell.com
Paid for by Stacie Truesdell for Ward 5, Las Vegas City Council

**Dedicated to
Representing Ward 5**

Stacie Truesdell for Ward 5 • 265 Wilted Jasmine Court • Las Vegas NV 89106
Home Phone: 388-4075 • Cell Phone: 481-9185
Website: www.stacietruesdell.com • E-mail: Stacie@stacietruesdell.com