



ASK DEANNA!
*Real People,
Real Advice*

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

Dear Deanna!

My boyfriend claims he's a confirmed bachelor and has no interest in being a one-woman man. I'm doing all that I can to please him but nothing seems to make him faithful. He hasn't disrespected me to my face but I know he does things behind my back. I feel that he loves me because he always comes home. Is there anything else I can do to show him the benefit of being with only me?

Tara
Durham, NC

Dear Tara:

You're being used. If you have a man that won't focus on you, then you need to decide what you want out of this relationship. You have the choice of playing house and cooking and cleaning until he moves on or you can raise your standards and do better. His bachelorhood claims is a sign of immaturity and being selfish. Regardless of coming home or not, you're not the only woman, and if he can't make that his objective, then you need to get rid of him and keep it moving.

Dear Deanna!

My husband has children with another woman. While dating, they caused problems by telling lies and did other rude things orchestrated by their mother. I calmly worked through those issues and got over it. Now I'm pregnant and his teen daughter has shattered my marriage. She told her father that she heard me tell someone the child wasn't his. My husband is acting distant and says things will be okay when the baby comes. How should I handle this situation?

Naomi
Omaha, NE

Dear Naomi:

If you have a solid marriage and you haven't cheated then you have nothing to worry about. Its best that you focus on having a healthy and safe pregnancy and deal with this issue after your delivery. However, after the baby arrives, you need to handle your husband and let him know that you don't appreciate his actions. He needs to stop playing games, and he should be ashamed to believe a child over his wife with such a sensitive issue. His rotten children aren't his fault but simply products of his ex-wife. Continue to ignore them and focus on your family.

Dear Deanna!

I'm a corporate executive dating a man that is an auto mechanic. Our careers don't bother our relationship but he won't support me when I ask him to attend my company events. I feel as if he's ashamed to be seen among my peers. There are several others in my corporate circle that date men beneath them and it's not a problem. Do you have any suggestions on how I can change his mind?

Anonymous
Online Readers

Dear Anonymous:

Things were going well until you claimed that your man was beneath you and you have friends with this same silly mindset. With such an insulting thought, you should be surprised this man is still with you. He knows this is what you think of him and he's not willing to put himself in an uncomfortable position. However, he cares for you enough to look over it and focus on his career that he enjoys. A word to the wise, if it's not broke, don't try to fix it.

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Pardons

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Tennessee's Rosa Parks Act passed the House 88-6 and was approved unanimously in the Senate last week. It now goes to Gov. Phil Bredesen, whose spokeswoman said he had not yet looked at the legislation.

"It's important because it recognizes that people did risk incarceration for social change and that they ultimately prevailed," said Senate Democratic Leader Jim Kyle, a White man from Memphis. "They should not have the stigma of that incarceration, or be put in the same class as other folks who simply just committed crimes."

The Florida version died in committee. The bill's sponsors plan to try again next year. "It's important for

Minorities

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through 2006 and used data available on the bureau's website that separated traffic stops into major and minor violations.

Major violations included driving while impaired, speeding or running a stop sign. Minor violations included equipment problem and regulation violations.

Police Chief Pat Norris, who is Black, said Black and Hispanic drivers are not being targeted.

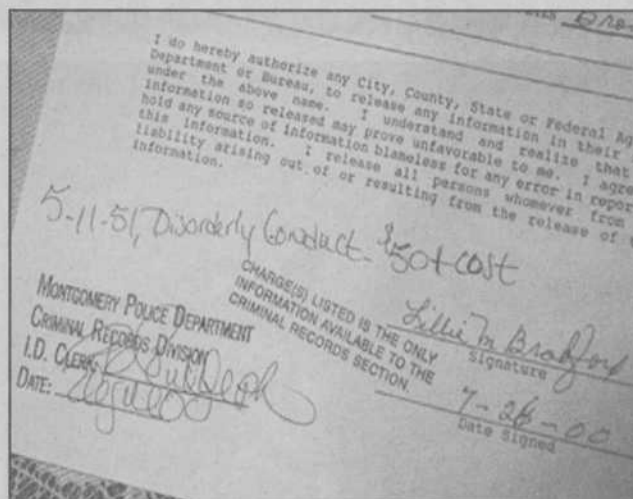
Norris said officers don't know the race of a driver until the vehicle is stopped in most cases. She also said some minority drivers often don't have enough money to maintain their vehicles and that leads to more stops for minor offenses, like tail lights or expired plates or inspections.

"When I was out and working the street, it just seemed like the more people that I pulled over were minorities that had trouble keeping up with the finances of the car more so than the White population did," Norris said.

The U.S. Justice Department released a study last month on racial profiling. It said all races were equally likely to be stopped, but Hispanics and Blacks were more likely to be searched and arrested.

Former N.C. State professor Mathew Zingraff has worked on two studies of racial profiling in the state and said the results don't mean anything if people don't pay attention.

"It's a mistake if police agencies are collecting data just because they think they have to," Zingraff said.



Lillie Mae Bradford is among countless Blacks who were arrested while fighting segregation laws that have been ruled unconstitutional.

those folks who stood up for their rights but were arrested just because of the color of their skin," state Sen. Tony Hill said.

Some civil rights activists, like 66-year-old Johnnie Turner of Memphis, said they

would not seek a pardon. She was arrested during a church sit-in in 1961, and considers it a badge of honor.

"Some things are just history," Turner said.

The Rev. James Lawson, a civil rights pioneer, was arrested numerous times and got kicked out of Vanderbilt University in 1960 for organizing lunch-counter sit-ins in Nashville. Now 78, he was invited back to Vanderbilt last year as a visiting professor.

He said that the Rosa Parks bills are a good idea but that the criminal charges have not been a serious problem for him or others.

"Since my college days, I've been warned by various people that my arrests would hurt me," Lawson said. "But I have not found that to be the case."

Firefighters

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"The only rational order that could come out of this would be for the judge to order us to do what we have already done," Fire Commissioner Nicholas Scoppetta said.

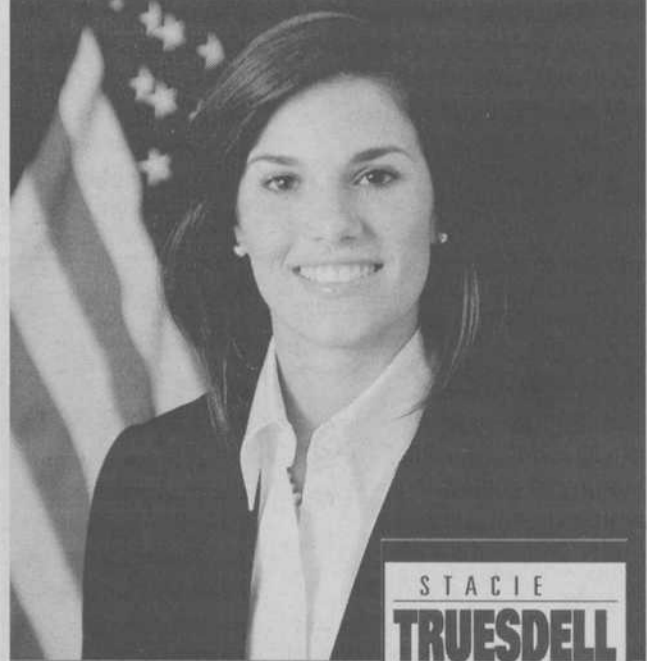
Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg declared that the city would fight the lawsuit.

"The Justice Department is not going to tell us what to do," the mayor said. "We try to do what's right in this city, and if they disagree, they're welcome to go to court with us."

Officials with the city's Law Department also said that the difference between Black or Hispanic and White test scores was not large enough to show bias and that the city had amply demonstrated to the Justice Department the relevance of the tests to job performance.

The suit, filed in Federal District Court in Brooklyn, is based on the 1999 and 2002 tests, the latter of which is still being used to generate the list of potential hires. (Scores on the January 2007 test have not been announced yet.) It seeks to compel changes in the Fire Department's screening process and to "make whole" Black and Hispanic applicants harmed by the tests.

**Stacie Truesdell for Ward 5,
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