



ASK DEANNA! Real People, Real Advice

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

Dear Deanna!

I have been with my boyfriend for two years. I want a commitment from him because we're living together as husband and wife. He says that he loves me and will be with me, but he's not interested in a piece of paper. We dated years ago and broke up and later got back together. I think he still holds a few things from the past against me, like cheating and having a baby with another man. How do I get him to move forward and focus on our future?

Jeanine
Online Reader

Dear Jeanine:

This relationship is on cruise control and will stay that way unless your boyfriend decides to press the gas. He's not going to give you what you want because there are many issues and too much baggage in the relationship. You both need to figure out how to get over the past and decide if you're on the same page with the commitment idea. However, you should develop thick skin and be prepared to keep it moving if he indicates there's no future.

Dear Deanna!

My co-worker is dating our supervisor and this is causing problems with the other staff. He's an older man and she's a younger woman. He just gave her a promotion, and she's not qualified for the position, nor does she have tenure. It's to the point now where a few people have quit, and those left behind have to do her job in order to keep the department flowing. Is there a way I can address this issue without losing my job, because our supervisor is nasty and vindictive?

Anonymous
Ft. Worth, TX

Dear Anonymous:

In this case, instead of getting mad, you should get educated. You should review employee manual and see if there's a policy about fraternization which is "in-house staff dating." Once you have that information, research your co-worker's new position to find out the qualifications and see if she measures up. After gathering your facts and research, visit your supervisor, and if you don't get the response you seek, visit human resources with your complaint and hope that you get a resolution instead of termination.

Dear Deanna!

I am a secure single man, and I live at home with my mother. I pay all of my mother's bills and take good care of her. For the record, I have no intentions of moving out, and marriage and kids aren't on my mind right now. With this said, I am tired of women judging me, assuming I'm a freeloader or even gay. Is there anything appropriate to let women know this is the life I chose, and I'm comfortable and nothing is wrong?

Brian G.
Winston-Salem, NC

Dear Brian:

You're a mother's boy for life and proud of it. There's nothing wrong with your lifestyle. If it works, then have at it. The women that have issues are the ones that are doing the math and looking at you as a husband, and your living arrangements aren't part of the plan. You don't have to spend too much time explaining anything, because whomever you choose should love you for you and not make your living arrangements an issue until it's time to get serious.

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

Albino rapper subverts race

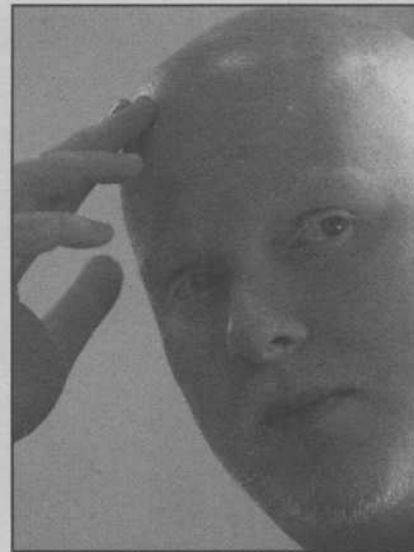
MINNEAPOLIS (AP) - When he was starting out in the rap business, Brother Ali quickly learned how much skin color matters.

"I started sitting down for interviews and journalists would say, 'Are you Black or White?'" recalled Ali, who is albino. "I'd ask them, 'What do you think?'"

For the record, Ali is Caucasian. But his lack of skin color made it easier to create ambiguity and avoid the label of "White rapper" — a tempting proposition for a man who grew up feeling accepted by Black kids and mistreated by his White classmates.

"It's not like Black kids didn't make fun of me, but it was different," said Ali, 29, who was born Jason Newman. "It wasn't done in a way to exclude me. It wasn't done in a way to make me feel like not even a human being, not even a person."

It was through friendships with Black people, first in Detroit and later Minneapolis, that Ali found the two outlets that have helped defuse his outsider rage — hip-hop and Islam. That, in turn, has helped him create music that's reaching an ever-widening audience: *Rolling*



BROTHER ALI

Stone magazine recently praised his "super-agile flow" and proclaimed that his new album, "The Undisputed Truth," should "go down as one of '07's best rap records."

But Ali said it's not about making hit songs. His rhymes are his release, a way to process a rough childhood and reach out to listeners who've suffered in their own ways.

"What I'm saying is real from my

heart, and so if it connects for somebody else, that's a real connection we have no matter who we are," Ali said. "What I'm saying is real to me, so if it means something to you then what we have is a real thing."

Such wisdom was hard-won. The taunts started early and followed him for years.

"I've always been a big kid, a chubby kid," said Ali, who is also legally blind, a condition common to albinos. "I had this long white hair, and I didn't really have the greatest clothes. I just looked strange."

But Ali discovered early on a love for performing and dancing, which he was never afraid to showcase at school assemblies and events. It was a way, he said, to call attention to himself for something other than his unusual appearance, and he was a good enough performer that it helped him find friends who were similarly interested in break-dancing and hip-hop.

Ali had a somewhat turbulent home life, with his family moving often and his parents splitting up several times before ending their marriage for good

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Prince CD giveaway stirs anger

LONDON (AP) - Prince has angered the music industry and stirred up trouble among British retailers by giving away his new album with a tabloid newspaper this weekend.

"Planet Earth" will be packaged with the *Mail on Sunday* newspaper at a price of \$2.80.

The giveaway has been roundly criticized as a major blow for an industry already facing rapidly declining CD sales. It has led Sony BMG U.K., Prince's local label, to pull the plug on its own sales release of the CD in Britain.

International sales launch for "Planet Earth" is July 16; the U.S. launch is July 24.

"The Artist formerly known as Prince should know that with behavior like this he will soon be the Artist Formerly Available in Record Stores," said Paul Quirk, co-chairman of the Entertainment Retailers Association, referring to a period in the 1990s when the singer famously stopped using his name to protest a binding record deal.

"It is an insult to all those record stores who have supported Prince throughout his career," Quirk said.

A publicist for Prince's record label said the 49-year-old singer-songwriter wasn't doing interviews.

Also fueling retailers' ire is what they see as a traitorous move by one of their

own. After harshly criticizing Prince initially and the deal, music and books retailer

HMV, which doesn't normally sell newspapers, decided to sell the *Mail on Sun-*

day in its 400-plus stores across the country.

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