



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 dating someone new and he has a child. My boyfriend's daughter is 10 years old and she has no manners or home training. When they come to my house she puts her dirty feet on the sofa and leaves her cups and candy wrappers everywhere. I nicely asked her to remove her things one day, and he became upset with me. This is a problem, and I see the relationship won't go any further until this is addressed. How do I deal with this sensitive subject?

Andrea
Charleston, SC

Dear Andrea:

You need to let your boyfriend know that your home is not a barn and his child will not treat it as such. The next time they visit, handle your business and tell her to remove her feet, clean after herself or whatever else you need to do. If your boyfriend says something, use that opportunity to share your expectations. Moving forward, if he or his daughter ignores the rules you provided, address it once more and if they don't comply, dump them both and keep it moving.

Dear Deanna!

I used to be a guy who played the field quite a bit. I've met someone nice and I want to settle down with her, build a future and perhaps have children or adopt. She tells me often that because of my past she's scared to trust me. I've slipped a few times but I'm working hard to be faithful, be committed and show her that I've changed. I've offered to go to counseling, I stay at home and I tell her everything, but nothing is working. What do I do?

Ryan
Online Reader

Dear Ryan:

The universe has a way of balancing itself, and now the exact thing you always ran from is running from you. You have to make changes within yourself and not try to change just for this relationship. In stating that you've slipped, in a relationship, one time of anything wrong is one time too many. Her trust will be built over a period of time and with consistency. Be patient, and your character and intentions will be revealed. She'll either accept you or deny you.

Dear Deanna!

I ended a violent relationship with a man I truly loved. He abused me verbally and physically all the time. I walked out one day and left my clothes and everything I owned. It has been a few years, and I ran into him at church. He appears to be a changed man. I've had a few conversations with him, and he wants another try. I've watched him in his new life and I think we have a chance at happiness. How can I protect myself if he goes back to his old behavior?

Anonymous
Baltimore, MD

Dear Anonymous:

Don't fool yourself into thinking that just because he's in church clothes he's changed. Unless he's addressed the root that causes his ugly behavior, you have a situation similar to putting a band-aid on a chimney to repair the roof. You need to watch a lot longer and keep him at arms length and do not move in with him or be intimate until you've seen a consistent pattern of change. After time, if this is an act, he'll get tired, and the real man will surface again.

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



Members of the group In A Fect carry victory hardware (commemorative microphones). The group won for Best Lounge Performance by a Band or Group.



Jackson family patriarch Joe Jackson with Hottie Schatar.

ABMA spotlights recording artists

Local dignitaries came out in force for the second annual American Black Music Awards held August 26 at Cashman Theater. Awards were given in various music categories and genres, including hip-hop, R&B, best vocal performance in a play, best live performance by a tribute artist, best R&B lounge performance, best on-air radio personality, gospel music rising stars and more.

In addition to tributes to legendary music industry personalities, such as Jackson family patriarch Joe Jackson, the show featured performances by various entertainers.

Some of the presenters and V.I.P. attendees in-
(See ABMA, Page 7)



Veteran singers (left to right) Sonny Turner, Lamont McLemore and Bubba Knight. Turner holds his Living Legend award.

Sentinel-Voice photos by Marty Frierson



Alyson Williams performs at the ABMA event.