



ASK DEANNA! Real People, Real Advice

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

Dear Deanna!

At one time, I was low in my life, lacking self-esteem and self-worth. During this period, I met my husband and settled just to have a man. We've been together for almost five years, but now I see he's not the man for me. He has verbally abused me, had affairs and I've let him stay. His bad finances are another story. I see the excuses I've made, and I've acknowledged my blame in this relationship. Am I being selfish? And am I wrong to break up with him?

Ready to Start Over
Baltimore, MD

Dear Ready to Start Over:

There's nothing worse than settling for less when you have options to wait for the right thing. You've exhausted your time, your patience and personal self for a few years. You're rightly justified in wanting to clean up this mess and start a clean slate. He's not attached on a deep emotional level, so it shouldn't surprise or shock him when you let him know it's over. Yes, you should file for divorce. Take the lead on the separation, say goodbye and keep it moving.

Dear Deanna!

I dated my boyfriend for exactly ten years, and I issued an ultimatum that we become engaged or married; he said no. It hurt but I took action. I packed his clothes, changed the locks and disconnected the phone. Later, I took a chance again because we were apart for almost a year and then he came back. However, while separated, he got someone else pregnant and now he wants me to accept his cheating, along with his marriage proposal. What should I do?

Angry Clarice
Mission Viejo, CA

Dear Clarice:

The way you handled the situation was childish and immature. You can't force a man to marry you if he's not ready. When you kicked him out in the cold, he didn't hesitate to find another warm bed. You shouldn't accept his proposal at this time because, you see, he didn't try to keep you when you tried to keep him. He's running from a pregnant fling, facing child support, and you're the stability in the middle of his mess. You should cherish the memories and remain friends. If things work out, fine; if not, continue to take things one day at a time and see what happens.

Dear Deanna!

I became friends with a co-worker and now I see this was a mistake. We went to a few parties, had dinners and visited some clubs on the weekend. Things turned sour when I started dating a guy that she had her eyes on. He wasn't interested, but she couldn't see it. Now she's turned on me and is putting all of my personal business in the office, and it's embarrassing. Do I have valid reasons to file a complaint with Human Resources, or should I let it rest?

Anonymous
Online Reader

Dear Anonymous:

You set yourself up with this one, and now you can either cause more problems by filing a complaint, or let it play out. Your best bet is to let her know that there were two of you out there and you could do the same to her, but you're more mature. Politely ask her to stop, and let her know that you don't plan to quit nor lose your job behind her games. In the long run, don't make the same mistake and keep your dirty laundry at home.

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

Harlem artist overcomes odds

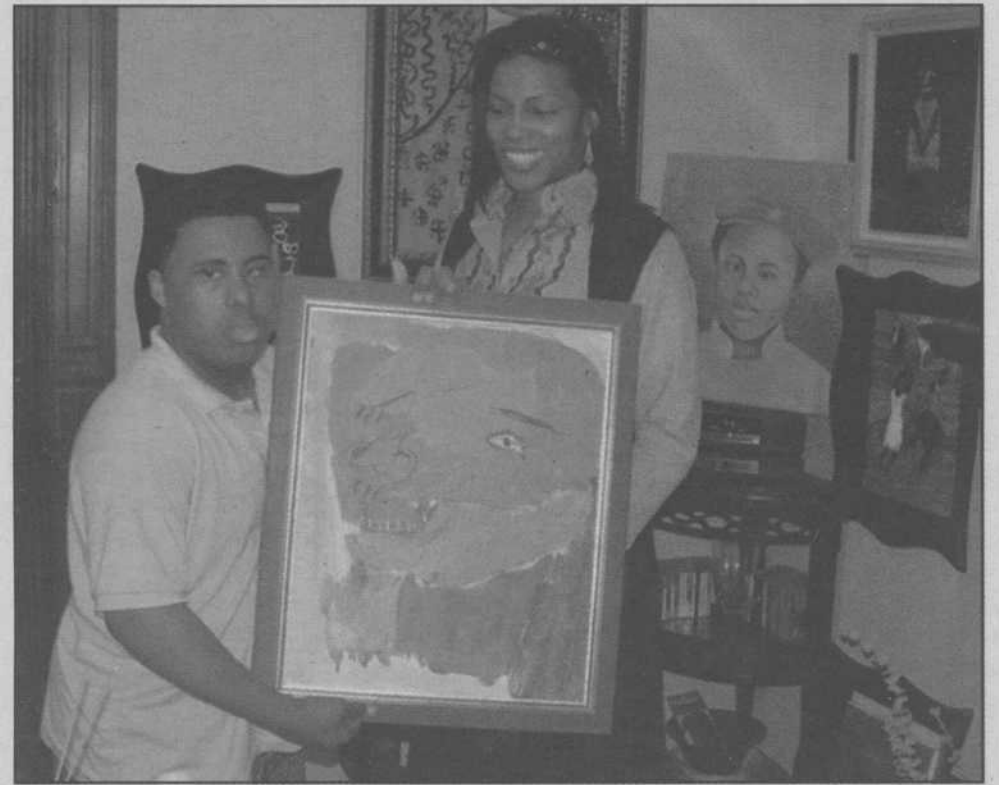
By A. Peter Bailey
Special to Sentinel-Voice
HARLEM (NNPA) - As a new year begins, 17-year old artist Haile King-Rubie looks back on 2007 with a great sense of happiness, satisfaction and pride.

In what can only be described as a breakout year, Haile — who is mentally challenged by Downs Syndrome — experienced the confidence-building joy of a premiere exhibit of 30 of his paintings, including 18 at a Harlem bank; the distribution of greeting cards using several of his paintings and the setting of a website, hailesimo.org, displaying his artwork.

It was a smiling, enthralled Haile who, with hugs and handshakes, welcomed attendees to the exhibitions, the first of which was held in his studio located in a Harlem brownstone owned by his parents, Bernardo and Audrey Rubie. Among the attendees was Ilyasah Shabazz, a daughter of Malcolm X and author of the book, "Growing Up X."

"It is always exciting," said Shabazz, "to see the first exhibition of paintings by a new, talented artist. And Haile is very talented."

This is an opinion shared by many who have seen Haile's colorful, acrylic paintings, including art lovers from Japan, France, Germany and Sweden.



Sentinel-Voice photo by Hailesimoart.com

Haile, sharing a painting with Ilyasah Shabazz, a daughter of civil rights icon Malcolm X.

His parents discovered Haile's affinity for painting when he was 4 years old and decided to send him to a school where he interacted with a broad diversity of schoolmates rather than to a special school for the Downs Syndrome. They are proud of their son.

"Haile is a wonderful son who is also a wonderful artist," said Bernardo Rubie. "He has an interesting painting style. Anyone viewing his artwork can see that his style has a strong cultural and spiritual bent."

Adds his mother Audrey,

who is from Liberia, West Africa, "Haile has loved to paint since he was four years old. He is still so committed to continue growing as an artist that, after school, he spends four to six hours a day studying with Haitian artist, Carl Thelemarque, for whom he is an intern."

His paintings have been described by writer, Deandra Shuler, as being "...vibrant. Some display a childlike innocence while others demonstrate an amazing depth of field, proportion, texture and aesthetic value."

Family members have en-

couraged Haile in every way they can in his quest to be as independent as anyone can be who is challenged by Down's Syndrome, a condition that results in mild to moderate mental and physical retardation due to chromosomal anomaly. For Haile, this past year was a giant step toward achieving some measure of independence by having a career that he loves while at the same time earning income.

Amidst the praises for his work, he says he has his favorite paintings. They are of "my family and friends."

Black luminaries find roots via series

By Kam Williams
Sentinel-Voice

A year ago, Harvard Professor Henry Louis "Skip" Gates hosted a groundbreaking series in which he and eight other African-American icons explored their roots via a combination of genealogical and DNA research. The show was so successful that PBS has brought Gates back along with eleven new recruits curious about their roots.

This go-round, the group of luminaries includes actors Don Cheadle and Morgan Freeman, poet Maya Angelou, Olympian Jackie Joyner-Kersey, DJ Tom Joyner, singer Tina Turner. *Ebony/Jet* publisher Linda Johnson Rice, fellow Harvard Professor Rev. Peter Gomes, comedian Chris Rock and belated Black author Bliss Broyard. Plus, there's Kathleen Henderson, the contest winner picked from among over 2,000 entrants to have her history researched for the program.



Sentinel-Voice photo by Cable Risdon

Host Henry Louis Gates Jr. guides Jackie Joyner Kersey through her family tree.

If you remember the original show, then you are already well familiar with the format. Broken down into four episodes, the first focuses on each person's 20th century relatives. The second episode traces Civil War Era ancestors, while the third goes all the way back to the Colonial Period.

DNA testing is introduced during the final episode, which is when the participants learn what percent African, Asian, European and

Native American they are. Some then venture to their respective homelands.

Highlights include Tom Joyner's learning of the legal lynching of two of his grandmother's brothers for the murder of a White man, the reading from a slave ship's log about captives' deaths from sickness and suicide, and Angelou's heartfelt insights about her strong connection to the Motherland, even in absentia when she wistfully reflects, "I don't

think you can ever leave home."

Ironically, the most compelling moments revolve around Broyard, daughter of the late *New York Times* literary critic, Anatole Broyard. For, her light-skinned father passed for White from the time he moved to New York City in 1938 at the age of 17 until his death in 1990. So, growing up she never knew she was part African-American.

Here, she is clearly uncomfortable as she struggles to grasp the meaning of her new identity, while wondering whether her father ran from his out of self-hatred or self-preservation. There is nothing culturally Black about Bliss, making her inclusion a bit strange, except that it reminds us that there are undoubtedly millions of others like her, the difference being they are either ashamed or unaware of their African ancestry.

The show's only low moment (See Lives, Page 7)