



ASK DEANNA! Real People, Real Advice

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

Dear Deanna!

I got into an argument with my boyfriend's mother, she called me out of my name, and I did it back to her. Next thing I know, my boyfriend beat me up. To make a long story short, I pressed charges against him, and now his mother is begging me to drop the charges. He is on parole and this will cause him to go to jail. Everybody is mad at me, but nobody cares that he beat me up and his mother started it all. What should I do?

Sheron
Online Reader

Dear Sheron:

It's not your fault his mother didn't teach him not to hit women. But you should've respected her more and held your tongue instead of running your mouth. Regardless, his mother isn't going to roll out the red carpet for you, and you're always going to have problems because this situation won't be easily forgotten. This is not your husband, and if it was any other man, you would let the charges remain. On that note, get ready for court, stay your distance from the entire family, and try to get your life started on a better note.

Dear Deanna!

I let my friend use my credit card number for an online purchase. She was only supposed to purchase a few things from E-bay and then return the card. When I got my bill, there were a lot of strange purchases: fees from online music downloads and restaurant delivery orders. I confronted her, and she denied it. My credit card is maxed out beyond my budget, and I can't pay the bill. I don't know what to do because my credit rating and my friendship are at risk.

Anonymous
Las Vegas, NV

Dear Anonymous:

You should take a closer look at your friend, because if she needed to use your credit card, she just might be broke. If you really wanted to help her, you should've made the purchases for her and kept your information to yourself. There's not much you can do but pay the bill because you willingly gave her your credit card. In the future, just say no. Learn who your friends are, and make better decisions with your finances.

Dear Deanna!

I got pregnant by my boyfriend and married him under pressure. I didn't have a problem living with him, but everybody else's opinions got to me, so I married him. I feel I made a mistake because he's a rude male chauvinist, very disrespectful and leaves junk all over the place. He wasn't like this before. Now that we're married, I don't like him, I don't love him, and I don't know him. How do I get out of this situation?

Mistaken Wife
Oklahoma City, OK

Dear Mistaken Wife:

Things were fine when you were playing house with no commitment. You made a big mistake that became worse when you married him under the false pretense of love. If the situation is this bad now, a crying baby is not going to help. You need to try some counseling immediately. If that doesn't work, be completely honest with him about your feelings and make plans to end the relationship. Then, plan how you both will raise the baby, and keep it moving.

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

Radio One give artists big break

By Kimberly C. Roberts
Special to Sentinel-Voice
PHILADELPHIA (NNPA) - The Music and Entertainment Conference is the brainchild of Radio One Philadelphia's Operations Manager, Elroy Smith.

For over 15 years, Smith has been uniting young hopefuls with the hottest artists and music executives for live and direct access.

The star-studded event, taking place at the Doubletree Hotel, Sun., March 16, is an event for those who "are music enthusiasts, believe in themselves, and are serious about their craft and breaking into the music and entertainment industry."

"I am totally thrilled to bring this experience to the East Coast and Radio One," Smith said.

"I look forward to giving our listeners a crash course in the music industry. I want to thank the record and music industries for helping me to keep this event alive!"

A highlight of Radio One Philadelphia's Music and Entertainment Conference will be the "Mary J. Blige Workshop," personally conducted by the six-time Grammy Award winning "Queen of Hip-Hop Soul."

Other informative workshops include the "Hip-Hop Workshop," which includes panelists such as Beanie Siegel, Fat Joe, Rick Ross and Lupe Fiasco; the "Inspiration Workshop," with panelists Kirk Franklin, Donald

Lawrence, and Tye Tribbett; and the R&B Workshop," featuring panelists Trey Songz, Mario and Kindred the Family Soul.

Aspiring songwriters will definitely want to take advantage of the "Listen and Critique Workshop," where super producers Michael Bivins, Dre & Vidal, and Carvin & Ivan will offer constructive criticism on "who's hot and who's not." The "best of the best" will receive a single record deal, compliments of Koch Records.

Radio One Philadelphia is comprised of stations WPHI, 100.3 The Beat, WPPZ Praise 103.9, and 107.9 WRNB. For ticket information on the Music and Entertainment Conference, visit www.1079wrnb.com.

Kimberly C. Roberts writes for the Philadelphia Tribune.

Flavor Flav's newest show to test emcee's acting ability

By Susie Kopecky
Special to Sentinel-Voice

Flavor Flav's career just got another boost.

The man best known for his recent stint as a reality television star and previously a singer will now add scripted television actor to his resume. Flavor Flav will be on MyNetworkTV's "Under One Roof," reports Reuters.

Kelly Perine will co-star, as Flavor Flav's brother who

welcomes his sibling into his home after a stint in jail. Flavor Flav will star in what the television network president, Greg Meidel, calls a "classic fish-out-of-water story."

This will be the network's first sitcom to be scripted. This will ostensibly be aimed at mining Flavor Flav's comedic talents.

The show will be half an hour, and is set to debut in Spring. It is currently in production in Toronto.

A press release describes the premise of the show: "Flav plays Calvster Hill, an ex-convict that moves in with his wealthy, conservative brother, Walter (Kelly Perine). Calvster subsequently turns the Hill family's life upside down, parading his old prison cronies through the house; teaching his nephew Walter Jr. to be a gangsta rapper; and butting heads with Walter's snooty wife, Ashley."

Bound

(Continued from Page 6)
is a two-faced phony, since "he cannot be himself without hurting himself politically."

According to Steele, "With Blacks he is a protester carrying forward the care's cause; with Whites he is the 'one people' unifier, minimizing the importance of racial difference."

Consequently, he's a "bound man," a hypocritical opportunist more interested in exploiting the status quo "to move himself ahead, not to advance a new configuration of race relations."

Certainly, such incendiary allegations would be easier to stomach if it weren't coming from an African-American who's also a darling of the right-wing Republican establishment.

That being said, the book does offer an intriguing theory about a dilemma faced by Blacks trying to assimilate into the mainstream. It claims that African-Americans seeking such success must adopt one of two masks: either that of "The Bargainer" or that of "The Challenger."

Bargainers strike this deal with White society: "I will not use America's horrible history of White racism against you, if you will promise not to use my race against

me." Examples Steele gives of Bargainers are Colin Powell and Oprah Winfrey.

Challengers, by contrast, leverage guilt to get power, indicting Whites as inherently racist "until they do something to prove otherwise. The author says Reverends Jesse Jackson and Al

Sharpton are your average Challengers.

The problem for Obama, and why he can never become president, supposedly, is that he behaves like a Bargainer, a latter-day Satchmo, in front of Whites, but more like a Challenger when trying to appease Blacks.

In sum, Shelby Steele makes a persuasive case in "A Bound Man," yet in my mind there remains the distinct possibility that there might be a third type of Black person, and maybe that's precisely why so many folks of every hue find something about Barack so appealing.



FESTIVAL OF FILM

Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa, celebrity host actress Ja'Net Dubois, Pan African Film and Arts Festival co-founder Ayuko Babu, and legendary actor Herb Jeffries on the red carpet at the 2008 Pan African Film and Arts Festival opening night gala held at the Directors Guild of America last Thursday.