



ASK DEANNA! Real People, Real Advice

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

Dear Deanna!

My niece is involved with a man old enough to be her father, and I feel he's taking advantage of her. My sister, who is her mother, is willing to go along with this if it makes her daughter happy. I think it's statutory rape, and it's sickening because my niece is young and inexperienced. I'm at the point where I may call and report this to the authorities because it's not right. Is it worth the risk of losing my sister and my niece, or should I leave it alone?

Worried Aunt

Long Island City, NY

Dear Aunt:

It takes a village to raise a child, and if your niece is underage, then you should report it to the authorities. However, you should respect your sister and talk with her before making your move. Also, many people are going to be hurt by your decision, and you must also ensure you have all the facts about the interaction between your niece and this man. If your research indicates that your niece is truly being taken advantage of, the authorities need to put him under the jail.

Dear Deanna!

I can't tell you how tired I am of watching my sister go out with bad guys. She seems to have a magnet on her head that attracts unemployed men, drug dealers and guys that look shady. She has access to decent men in her circle. I don't understand it. My sister has a college education, a good job and nice friends. You would think that after a while she would be tired of financing men, getting abused and dealing with drama. How do I get through to her?

Carl

Portland, OR

Dear Carl:

Some women will overlook good guys because they seek excitement, good sex and thrills. These relationships often crash and burn after a financial wipeout, unplanned pregnancy or a few fights with other women. You can help by introducing her to quality men, exposing her to positive relationships and social networking opportunities. The choice is up to her, and if she continues the "choke me, pull my hair" lifestyle, then support her and be there when she falls.

Dear Deanna!

How do I apologize for interfering in my best friend's marriage? I want to apologize to her, but I don't know what to say to her without any physical confrontation. There were some things that I did and said that caused problems in her relationship. I just want to apologize and let her know that I didn't mean to come between her and her husband. How do I apologize?

Hurting

Oklahoma City, OK

Dear Hurting:

You owe an apology to her husband, as well, because your actions affected him, too. You're an adult and know you shouldn't do anything to jeopardize another person's relationship. If you did something so bad that it would get physical, you should communicate with a card or a phone call. Then again, if this is your friend and you truly have her best interests at heart, you should be able to respectfully apologize face-to-face without drama, 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.

Rapper rejects samples on CD

Special to Sentinel-Voice

During the writing and recording of his new disc, "Everywhere at Once," Bay Area rapper/producer Lyrics Born found himself constantly going head-to-head with a demanding coach: himself.

"The only thing constant in this world is change," he said. "So what I said to myself was, 'How can I change: how can I still be relevant: how can I function in today's music world and have the attention of the people, yet still be able to bring that lyricism to it?' That was the challenge with this record."

Born Tom Shimura and one of the founding members of the Bay Area's seminal Quannum Projects label and roster, Lyrics Born addressed that challenge in recording his new set, due April 22 on Anti-. The 18-track "Everywhere at Once" maintains the rapper's gift for firing off tommy-gun rhymes with deceptive ease.

Following up 2003's "Later That Day" and its attendant remix record, 2005's "Same !@#& Different Day," he went into the writ-



Rapper Lyrics Born is downplaying his label shift.

ing process with the philosophy that he'd do what nobody else is doing — or at least what I haven't done before. (The record is) funky, it's soulful, it rocks, it's hip-hop. There's a really broad range of issues and emotions being covered."

The rapper is downplaying his label shift to Anti-, saying that Quannum had a distribution deal with the label several years ago. "It's really no different," he said. "I still make the records I want to make, still work with the people that I always

worked with. I've always said I didn't care if I came out on a major or on an indie, as long as I could make the records I want to make."

Key to the new album was the speed with which it was created. "I've been in the situation, back in the day, where you take two years to make a record, and you kind of dwell on things a little bit too much," Lyrics Born said. "I don't like to do that. I like to write a record, record it, listen to it, mix, print, done. It takes a while to learn how to get into that zone."

He also had to learn to work with a live band. Lyrics Born's 2006 live effort, "Overnite Encore," featured members of his band, a conceit that carried over into the sample-free new record.

"That was my next challenge, something I hadn't done yet," he said. "I thought, 'I can't really call myself a producer until I'm able to do that.' And I did that. The biggest thing was that I wanted to write my own material, write my own melodies and lines, and (having a band) was the next logical step for me."

Book uncovers Democratic bigotry

Wrong on Race:

The Democratic Party's
Buried Past

By Bruce Bartlett; Palgrave
Macmillan; Hardcover;
\$26.95; 284 pages.

ISBN: 978-0-230-60062-1

By Kam Williams
Sentinel-Voice

"It must be acknowledged that in the progress of nations Negroes have shown less capacity for government than any other race of people. No independent government of any form has ever been successful in their hands. On the contrary, whenever they have been left to their own devices they have shown a constant tendency to relapse into barbarism... Of all the dangers which our nation has yet encountered, none are equal to those which must result from the success of the effort now making to Africanize the half of our country." — President Andrew Johnson, State of the Union Address (1867)

Although the Democratic Party has come to be associated with liberal politics and thus embraced by African-Americans over the past 40 years or so, this hasn't always been the case. In fact, for most of its history, the party created by Thomas Jefferson has been uniformly racist and

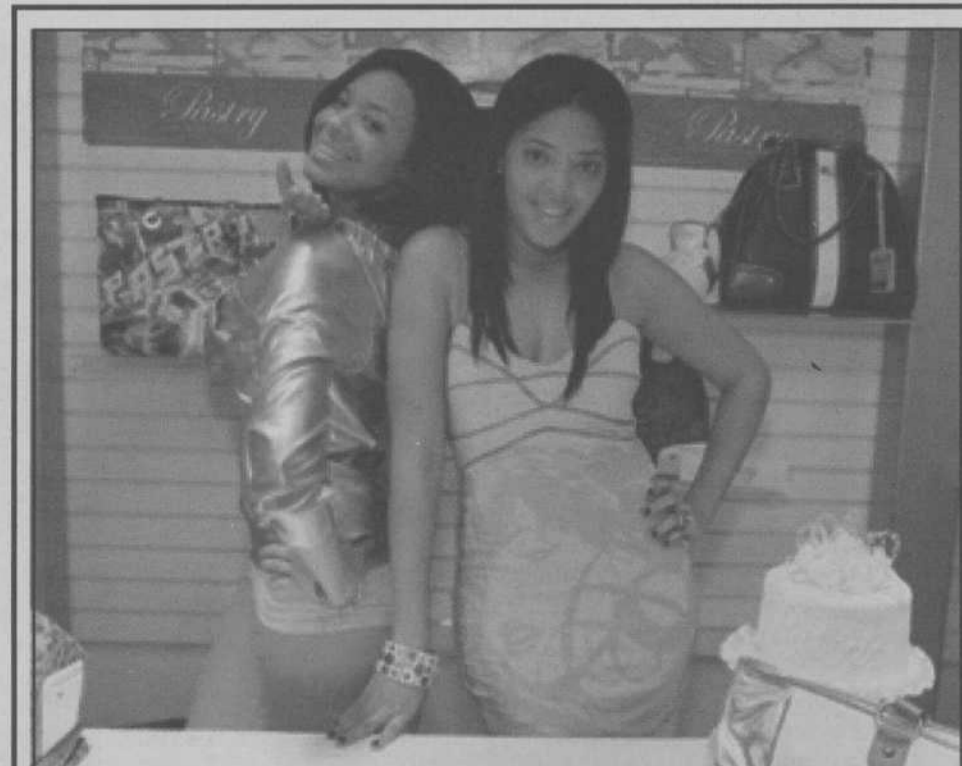
right-wing.

Despite being famous for coining the phrase, "All men are created equal," Jefferson also asserted that Blacks "are inferior to the Whites in the endowments both of body and mind." The hypocritical third President of the United States went on to allege that

"They secrete less by the kidneys, and more by the glands of the skin, which gives them a very strong and disagreeable odor... They require less sleep... They are more ardent after their female: but love seems with them to be more an eager desire than a tender delicate mixture of sentiment

and sensation... In general... they are dull, tasteless, and anomalous."

This bigoted Founding Father is credited with formulating "the most intense, extensive and extreme" anti-Black thought of the post-Revolutionary Era." So, it (See Book Review, Page 7)



RUNNING THINGS

Rev. Run's daughters, Vanessa and Angela, from his reality show presented their line, Pastry Footwear's Cake Collection, at this year's MAGIC International trade show held earlier this month at the Las Vegas Convention Center.

Sentinel-Voice photo by Marty Frierson