



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 in love with a married man, and I know he's going to leave his wife for me. He and his wife argue all the time, she nags him, and they don't go anywhere together. She tried to trap him by getting pregnant, but he still plans to leave her. She doesn't know about me yet, but I plan to make my presence known. Will this help speed up the process and make him leave faster, or should I let it play itself out?

Committed Mistress
Atlanta, GA

Dear Committed:

You're a fool and dumber than a doornail. A small percentage of men leave their wives, and a smaller percentage stay with the mistress if they do. First, you should look at the fact this man had a baby with his wife while using you like toilet paper. Secondly, you should realize if he cheats on his wife, he'll cheat on you, too. Do yourself a favor and find a single man that will respect you and not have you in a deadly situation playing fake love games.

Dear Deanna!

I met a guy that I thought was really interested in me. I helped him get employment at my company, helped with his bills and paid child support for him. As soon as things started looking up for him, our relationship changed. Things hit the fan when he got a promotion and moved into another department. He is now telling me that he's focused on improving his life instead of dating me. I heard that he's dating someone else in the company. What do I do?

Crying and Miserable
Online Reader

Dear Miserable:

You set yourself up by confusing help with being used and also giving up your money. You never should mix business with pleasure because it's a guaranteed recipe for pain. He used you to get ahead and you can see early on that he's leaving you behind. If you heard that he's dating someone on the job, it's probably true. You can't do anything other than move on, be glad that you got out early, and pray for the new lady who will be his next sucker.

Dear Deanna!

I'm a recently divorced grandmother enjoying the single life. My husband of 30-years left me for a younger woman. I don't regret the situation and knew that he cheated during most of our marriage. I'm dating and things are great. My adult sons don't mind my new lifestyle, but my daughters are giving me problems. They want me to live as an old grandmother. I look good for my age and want to know how do I convince my daughters to let me live my life.

Sexy Grandma
Online reader

Dear Grandma:

You're grown enough to pay your own bills, mind your personal affairs and live without your daughters henpecking you to death. You need to set them straight and tell them to mind their business. Yes, they're concerned because you're their mom, with a motherly image but you need a life. Assure them that you're making good decisions, feeling good about yourself, and you prefer to live than sit down, grow old and bore yourself to death.

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Dance festival welcomes talent

Special to Sentinel-Voice

Everyone is invited to the seventh annual Critical Kondition Dance Fest on Saturday, March 22, at the West Las Vegas Library Theatre. This hip-hop festival will include singing and dancing by special guests Hypnotix Dance Crew and Kappa League as well as the Critical Kondition dance teams.

KVEG Hot 97.5 FM radio

broadcaster D-Money will be master of ceremonies and guest DJ. Tickets are priced at \$7 in advance and \$10 at the door, for ages 5 and older. Children under age 5 will be admitted at no charge when accompanied by a supervising adult. The event is appropriate for all ages, but parking and seats are limited. Doors will open at 5:30 p.m. for seating. The concert is

scheduled from 6 to 8 p.m. The theatre is located at 951 W. Lake Mead Blvd.

Local groups interested in performing at the festival should contact Gibson Community School. The event is sponsored by the City of Las Vegas Department of Leisure Services and the Gibson Community School Board. Advance tickets will be available only at Gibson

Community School, which provides supervised day camps, sports, recreation and leisure activities for youth and educational classes for adults. Gibson is located at 3990 W. Washington Ave., with office hours from noon to 8 p.m. Monday through Friday and noon to 4 p.m. Saturdays. For tickets and more information, call (702) 229-5096.

Blind Boys member back in school

TALLADEGA, Ala. (AP) — Nearly 70 years later, Jimmy Carter — the last active, original member of the Grammy-winning Blind Boys of Alabama — still gets emotional talking about the day his mother dropped him off at age 7 to live at the state-run school for the deaf and blind.

Sightless since birth, Carter was thrust into a harsh, unfamiliar world far from his home in Birmingham. He was supposed to learn a trade like caning chairs or making brooms, but Carter wanted to sing. So did some of his new friends — and they eventually became the Blind Boys of Alabama.

The acclaimed gospel group is once again getting ready for the road after returning to the Alabama Institute for Deaf and Blind to perform there for the first time in more than six decades.

The Blind Boys were the headliners at a recent gala homecoming evening that marked the 150th anniversary of the institute, which provides free education, job training, Braille books and other services.

Carter, his expressive tenor voice turned gravelly after decades on stage, said it was good to go back after so long despite those terrifying first days as a student in 1939, when his mother left him, both of them in tears.

"It made me what I am today," said Carter, speaking during an interview at his home in Montgomery before the show. "When the blind children wanted an education, that's where they came. That's how I met with the other singers."

The president of the Institute for Deaf and Blind, Terry Graham, said the Blind Boys' journey since leaving the east Alabama campus has been remarkable. They have played all over the world, with an appearance at the

White House and a stint on Broadway.

"We are so pleased and honored that they would be with us because they are so well known internationally," said Graham. "They are coming back as our most famous graduates."

With about 300 students on its main campus and another 13,000 people served at nine regional centers around the state, the school today

a reform school because they would lock you up at night, and they wouldn't feed you," said Carter.

Carter joined the choir as a boy, and that led to a gospel group modeled after the members' idols, the Golden Gate Quartet. "We didn't have a radio, so we'd have to sneak off the campus to listen to them," he said. "We decided if they could make a living, why don't we try to?"

than 50 albums.

A gospel music expert said the Blind Boys have succeeded in opening up the genre to a new audience by working with people like rocker Peter Gabriel, who had them along as an opening act on his international tour a few years ago.

"The really cool thing about the Blind Boys is that they have done something that you could never do on paper: That is making 70-, 80-year-old men exciting to 20- and 30-year-olds," said Bil Carpenter, author of "Uncloudy Days: The Gospel Music Encyclopedia."

The group opens its 2008 tour Friday in Los Angeles. Four nights later they are scheduled to appear on NBC's "Tonight" show, Carter said. By any measure, that's a long way from school for the blind in Alabama.

The Blind Boys have had personnel changes through the years, but there has always been a mix of blind singers and sighted musicians. On stage, everyone wears matching suits and the sunglasses favored by the blind members.

The Blind Boys performed nothing but traditional gospel for years, but they moved into the mainstream in 2001 with the release of "Spirit of the Century," which included the Rolling Stones' "Just Wanna See His Face" and won the first of the group's four consecutive Grammys.

Their new CD, "Down in New Orleans," features musicians including the Preservation Hall Jazz Band. The New Orleans groove was new to the Blind Boys, but Carter said members wanted to branch out and lift up the city after Hurricane Katrina.

"We try to bring hope where there is despair. We try to bring peace where there is confusion. We try to bring love where there is despondency," he said.



Blind Boys of Alabama singer Jimmy Carter holds one of the group's three Grammys at his home in Montgomery.

provides assistance for everyone from disabled newborns to elderly people who are going deaf or blind.

It was very different during Carter's days at the school. The campus was segregated by race — like everything else in the Jim Crow South — and separate wasn't always equal at the Alabama School for Negro Deaf and Blind, as the Black division was called.

"The school really wasn't up to par. It didn't really seem like a school; it seemed like

The group left school and went on the road as The Happy Land Jubilee Singers on a date etched in Carter's memory: June 10, 1944. Members never returned to the school for a show; they later adopted their current name.

The group that once sang to all-Black audiences in the South made it to Broadway with the play "The Gospel at Colonus" in 1983, and they won four straight Grammys for traditional gospel groups. They have recorded more