



## ASK DEANNA! Real People, Real Advice

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

Dear Deanna!

My girlfriend is getting on my nerves because I feel she has mistaken strength for rudeness. She talks down to me and embarrasses me in front of my friends. She is trying to prove to her friends that she's in control of this relationship. I let her get away with a few things because no harm has been done. I need to put a stop to this because she's begun to publicly attack my sexual performance. How do I address this without ruining the relationship?

Anonymous  
Online Reader

Dear Anonymous:

You need a loudmouth woman like you need a hole in the head. Your girlfriend is being disrespectful to you and the relationship. You should be direct and tell her to keep her mouth shut and stop putting you on blast in front of people. If she feels the need to control something, buy her a dog and she can pull its leash and make it jump at her command. If the verbal rudeness continues, give her a warning with the understanding that the next time, you'll be gone.

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Dear Deanna!

I'm a bachelor who actively dates, and I'm tired of women trying to change me. I go into relationships being honest and direct. After a while, these women want more than I'm willing to give. I don't have any problems with this, but it makes me mad when they accuse me of leading them on, cheating and lying. It is what it is and I stay the same from the first date to the last. What can I do to protect myself from drama when these women want more from me?

Travis the Bachelor  
Houston, TX

Dear Bachelor:

You put yourself in this situation by playing the relationship game. If you don't want them asking for more then you need to stop acting like a boyfriend and treat these women as around the way girls. In other words, if you're a recreational dater giving your body to all and heart to none, then let them know. Yes, tell them that you're using them, you don't want anything serious and you have more than one girlfriend. This will make your life easy and simple because once they hear the real truth, they'll slam you and keep searching for a real man.

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Dear Deanna!

My sister hates my boyfriend because she feels he doesn't treat me right. My boyfriend doesn't like her because he feels she is too nosy. They always argue, try to embarrass each other and do dirty things to each other. I'm at the breaking point after my sister stole a check from his checkbook and cashed it. On the other hand, my boyfriend told her boyfriend that she was cheating. Where do I draw the line with them before someone gets hurt?

Gina C.  
Charleston, SC

Dear Gina:

Almost like school kids, you would think they have a crush on each other. You have to decide how much time you have to babysit while they play games. Take control of your relationship and put your sister in her place. Your boyfriend needs to know your expectations as you give him your verbal thoughts on dealing with your sister. If he doesn't behave, erase him and remember that boyfriends without rings come and go, but sisters are always around.

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

# Women lament 'Girlfriends' end

By Wayetu Moore  
Special to Sentinel-Voice  
WASHINGTON (NNPA) — Joan Clayton was the image of the contemporary Black woman. The former corporate lawyer, turned successful Los Angeles Restaurateur was not only a style icon of vintage, urban chic, but a daughter of successful African-American professionals, the fiancée of a man whose salary was a third of hers, and a friend of three women that were welcomed into our homes every Monday night for the past eight years.

Joan Clayton, Mya Wilkes, Lynn Searcy, and Toni Childs were characters on the CW network's "Girlfriends." The show broke records as one of the longest running African-American sitcoms, next to NBC's "The Cosby Show," which also ran for eight seasons. Like "The Cosby Show," the sitcom was also one of the few of its time that portrayed African-Americans in a progressive and positive light, airing shows with racially charged insight and socially critical humor.

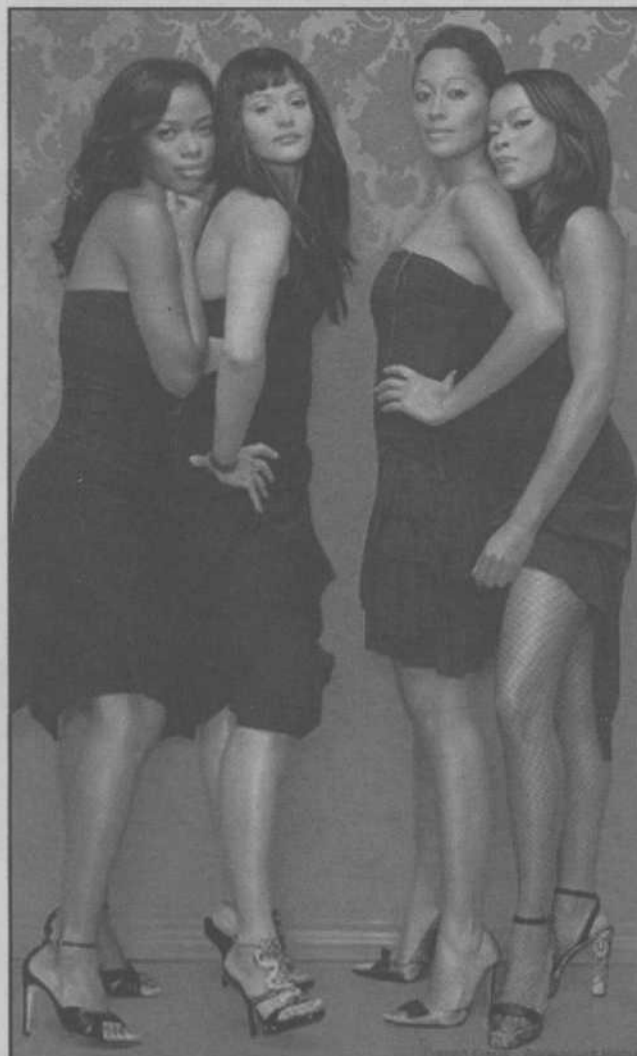
Last month, the CW Network announced that the NAACP Image Award and Emmy nominated sitcom would be cancelled. In light of the recent Writer's Guild of America strike and the loss of millions of dollars, the network does not plan to film a season finale for the show's faithful viewers.

In a release from publicist Paul McGuire, the network stated, "To better focus its creative and financial resources, The CW will only resume production on shows that are in consideration for renewal next year."

Although it was cited as a "difficult decision" that "was based solely on the considerable cost to license each episode", Black women around the country are frustrated at the discontinuance of the landmark series.

"It was the only show that I felt that I could really see myself in. I am a Black woman, but neither me or my friends were ever loud, ghetto, or angry like other media portrayals of Black women suggested," said Charlotte Yoakum, a social worker residing in Houston.

Roxanne Starling, a flight attendant and part-time teacher sighed heavily at the news. "It was an exciting time. I remember when "Girlfriends" first came out, I watched it religiously. We could all see some of the characters in ourselves. That was refreshing. To be able to



Cast of the long-running show "Girlfriends:" Jill Marie Jones, Persia White, Tracee Ellis Ross and Golden Brooks.

see yourself is always nice. But once again, it gets taken away."

"Girlfriends" was created by Mara Brock Akil and produced by Kelsey Grammer. The show initially aired on UPN in 2000, and later moved to the CW. While critics at first dismissed it as a Black emulation of HBO's "Sex in the City," the characters, played by actresses Tracee Ellis Ross, Persia White, Golden Brooks, and Jill Marie Jones formed unique and identifiable personalities of their own. Their individual and inimitable representations of a lawyer, a real estate agent, an artist, and a teen mother, contributed largely to the success of the UPN and CW, and gather skepticism as to why such a successful show had to be cancelled.

"I didn't even know that it was cancelled," said Ashleigh Staton, a photography teacher in New York. "And it's horrible that there's no season finale. I'll miss it. I thought the show was already going downhill though, after Toni left."

Toni, or "Toni Childs," as most women's favorite character called herself, was written off of the show after season six, when actress Jill Marie Jones decided to take her career on a different path. Jones' exit received mixed reviews from both viewers and other cast members, including a semi-controversial

love."

Anna Johnson, a Howard University student agreed. "I liked the show, but I think that some of the illustrations were frustrating. Joan was successful, but she drove men away: Toni was successful, but she was a gold-digger, Lynn was brilliant, but she was promiscuous, and Mya was a teen mother that ended up cheating on her husband."

Although many women held opposition to the relationship portrayals in "Girlfriends," some saw it as a realistic approach to what many contemporary Black women go through.

"That honestly is a representation of what Black women are facing," said Nana-Adwoa Ofori, Entertainment editor of *The Coup Magazine*. "It would be completely fairy tale for all of them to be in stable relationships and hold successful jobs. That's just not how it is. Me and my friends go through the same thing. All of these things are reflections of what Black women experience today."

While the show's creator, Mara Brock Akil, is in negotiations with the network to produce a compilation of clips in honor of the series' success, other networks like ABC and NBC are cashing in on the media reign of sitcoms that feature, successful women. NBC's "Lipstick Jungle" and ABC's "Cashmere Mafia" both aired this spring, and feature a new string of successful leading ladies.

"It won't be the same," Ofori concludes. "I always thought that "Girlfriends" was better than many of the programs out there. I feel like it was better than "Sex in the City." Tracy's wardrobe put Sarah Jessica to shame," she laughed. "I guess as Black women all we can do is tune in and keep hoping to see ourselves again. They will truly be missed."

"Girlfriends" has been sold into syndication by CBSParamount. The first three seasons can also be found on DVD.

## Foundation

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alumni are both leaders in their professional fields and consummate ambassadors of Jackie Robinson's legacy of community service.

This academic year (2007-2008), JRF is providing more than \$3.1 million in scholarship assistance and program support to 259 students representing 30 states and enrolled in 93 different colleges and universities across the country.

Since the foundation's inception, more than \$16 million in scholarship assistance has been provided.