



ASK DEANNA! Real People, Real Advice

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

Dear Deanna!

I disagree with teenage dating and feel kids shouldn't have dates until they finish high school. All of the young teens in our family are dating and they are all a mess. The girls are going through stress, crying and wearing a lot of make-up. The boys want to be thugs and are going through many girls for the notches on their belt. I'm viewed as the old maid in the family, but my children are stress free because I don't let them date. When is the right age to begin dating?

G.T.

Ft. Worth, TX

Dear G.T.:

If you have pep in your step and can get moving, then your children can eat your dust and let you continue living your life. You've paid your dues, and you're entitled to more than babysitting and planting flowers if your foot isn't on a banana peel. However, you still need to practice caution and good judgment in all areas. You may be mature and wise and financially stable, but sexual diseases and HIV doesn't discriminate.

Dear Deanna!

My sister has moved in with me, and it's a total disaster. She is a liar, a thief and a master manipulator. I am used to a calm life that doesn't involve anyone opening my mail, answering my phone and acting as if they live in a hotel with room service. I'm going to put her out, but I have to face drama from my family because she's told them a pack of lies. Our family is torn and she already has everyone on her side. How do I evict her and still save face.

Anonymous

Los Angeles, CA

Dear Anonymous:

You need your sister and all of this madness just like you need a hole in the head. However, your sister is someone you grew up with and you knew most things about her before she moved in. This decision is quick and to the point. If it's your house, your rules and your money, then she needs to shape up or ship out. If you have some joint agreements, then you need to change some locks, make new rules and try again before sending her packing.

Dear Deanna!

I have to choose who I want to marry. I have a childhood friend that would love to be with me, but I don't feel any fireworks for him. I really want to marry my ex-boyfriend but I know he would only marry me for stability since he has a history of unemployment. I am so anxious to become a married woman but I'm having a tough time with this decision. Neither man has expressed this interest, so I will be the one proposing. Who do I choose?

Marriage Confusion

Online Reader

Dear Confusion:

You are missing the major dynamics of marriage, such as a mutual agreement and, of course, a loving, committed relationship. This is a union from God, not to be taken lightly or as a game. Your childhood friend doesn't deserve heartbreak, and your ex-boyfriend would use you. You deserve better and should invest time in building a loving relationship with someone who has love, trust, respect and a joint decision for commitment and matrimony.

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Film taps Black-on-Black love

By Kam Williams
Sentinel-Voice

Although he himself is African-American, Jay Brooks (Anthony Montgomery) doesn't date Black girls, basically, because every one he's met has been more interested in the athletic, alpha-male, Talented Tenth type of guy.

This thirty-something, nerdy underachiever not only wears glasses, but can't dance, chain smokes through a cigarette holder and isn't exactly good in bed. Worse, his pay as an illustrator of graphic novels isn't enough for him to own a car, which makes it almost impossible to wine and dine women in a city like Los Angeles.

Still, these failings haven't prevented the roaming Romeo from finding one White girl after another eager to sleep with him. The only problem is that none of those serially monogamous liaisons ever lasts because Jay always sabotages them at the first sign that a partner wants to get serious.

He's recently dumped his latest conquest in his usual fashion, namely, by leaving behind a note as he went out the door, because the Rubenesque redhead (Jennifer Hogan) said he reminded her of the actor Gary Coleman. Reflecting upon his series of failed relation-



"I'm Through with White Girls" is a funny take on a sensitive issue: interracial dating.

ships with Caucasians, Jay decides it's time to try to see if he can find a suitable match from among his own people after all. So, he puts into motion Operation Brown Sugar, running a personal ad seeking a sister.

He proceeds to audition a string of losers without any luck, until by chance he is introduced by a mutual friend (Kellee Stewart) to Catherine Williamson (Lia Johnson), a best-selling author with a new book on the market prophetically-entitled, "The Inevitable Was Bound to Happen."

Catherine is a free-spirit sporting colorful hair extensions, which prompts Jay to remark, "I didn't know Black

girls grew blue hair."

Not one to be intimidated, the feisty fiction writer snaps back, "I didn't know you could smoke through a straw."

There's an instant attraction, which Jay has a hard time trusting because he is thoroughly enjoying the company of a Black woman feels utterly unfamiliar. But once these soul mates start dating, the only question is whether fear of commitment will cause him to ruin the best thing he's ever had.

So, unfolds "I'm Through with White Girls," a battle-of-the-sexes comedy marking the delightful directorial debut of Jennifer Sharp. Equally-impressive is the

gifted young cast employed to execute Courtney Lilly's endlessly inventive script, especially co-stars Lia Johnson and Anthony Montgomery, as well as Lamman Rucker, Marcus Patrick, Kellee Stewart, Ryan Alosio and veteran Johnny Brown (who you may remember as Bookman the Janitor on the classic TV series "Good Times.")

Alternately entertaining and enlightening, this hilariously funny flick is proof positive that it's possible to shoot a sophisticated romantic romp on a shoe-string budget.

Excellent (4 stars). Rated R for profanity, an ethnic slur and sexual references.

Author: Blacks hinder own freedom

Sweet Release: The Last Step to Black Freedom

By Dr. James Davison, Jr.:

Prometheus Books;

Hardcover; \$24.95;

275 pages

ISBN: 978-1-59102-558-0

By Kam Williams
Sentinel-Voice

"The racial struggle, for many of us, is over. Our struggles are now centered around schools for our children, career opportunities, and development of self. Racial struggles are increasingly becoming secondary or tertiary concerns in our everyday discourse... As a group, we've attained physical and political freedom: now on to psychological freedom and mental health outside the group.

Our Black identity is a by-product of slavery and racism — an affectation, assumed rather than natural. Ideally, there should exist no such thing as Black identity. It is part of our oppression, a notion propagated by those motivated to provide anchor to a people set adrift by sla-

very. I contend that that same anchor now ties us down, retarding our free movement...

We must move beyond race... Are you ready?"

— Chapter 26 "Black Identity beyond the Struggle" (pg. 224)

Is it detrimental for African-Americans to continue to think of their struggle for advancement as a collective as opposed to a solitary enterprise? This is the controversial contention put forward by Dr. James Davison Jr. in "Sweet Release: The Last Step to Black Freedom?" Davidson, a psychologist in private practice in California, argues that Blacks still viewing reality through a pre-Civil Rights Era prism are only standing in the way of their own freedom.

Delivering a series of self-help lessons in the blistering language of tough love, the book unapologetically blames poor folks for their plight, while simultaneously stating emphatically that those fortunate enough to

have escaped the slums need not feel any responsibility "to give back." At first blush, Davison may simply sound like the latest in that ever-lengthening line of leading Black conservatives which includes social scientist Shelby Steele, economist Thomas Sowell, businessman Ward Connerly and linguist John McWhorter, among others.

However, Davison deserves serious consideration, if only because more and more African-Americans who share his point-of-view are gaining access to the mainstream media and having their ideas published by top publishers. Furthermore, as a shrink, his unique analysis amounts to the functional equivalent of an emotional diagnosis of the mental state of the Black psyche.

His basic contention is that African-Americans need to break the psychological bonds to their racial past by asserting their individuality, a step which he claims "has little to do with racism, preju-

dice, or discrimination." He goes on to indict revered icons, like Reverends Al Sharpton and Jesse Jackson, Minister Louis Farrakhan and their kind, as hate mongers and entertainers who feed off the poor by selling them false pride.

By contrast, Dr. Davison deems the oft-maligned Black middle-class to be the real role models worthy of emulation, since "success and failures are the result of effort and ability, not luck or ingratiating behavior." Consequently, he suggests that people distance themselves from the ghetto gangsta "fraternity of failure" where such practices as "partying, having constant sex, getting high, working on my jump shot and being a criminal" take precedence over developing the skills and qualifications for a successful career.

In incendiary street vernacular, he addresses these thugs directly, saying, "Your game has been peeped and (See Sweet Release, Page 7)