



ASK DEANNA! Real People, Real Advice

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

Dear Deanna!

In the middle of a bad divorce, I'm still intimate with my husband. Although we didn't get along, couldn't build a life or raise our family together, we were able to bond physically. The reason we're divorcing is due to outside affairs with other people, financial problems and marrying too soon. I want to move on with my life but for some reason, I manage to keep this part of the relationship going. Am I wrong for doing this?

Worried Divorcee
Atlanta, GA

Dear Worried:

Sex is the fuel for a relationship and not the glue. If you're divorcing your husband, you need to immediately cut all physical ties. You're shortchanging yourself by giving him your body because it's obvious he didn't respect you as a wife and won't respect you as a homey lover friend. Learn from your mistakes. And if you must have a man, be a better judge of character and find one that will respect you more than your husband and keep it moving.

Dear Deanna!

My girlfriend is a woman with a cute face but she's voluptuous and doesn't understand that all fashions aren't suitable for her. I love her and think she looks good in most things but not everything. It's hard for me in public when people stare at her or snicker and make rude remarks. When I address this issue, we argue. Please give me some options because I'm tired of being embarrassed and my suggestions aren't working?

Matthew
Boston, MA

Dear Matthew:

Your partner has a mental problem because she probably has a size 18 shape with a size 5 outlook. This is not cute and you need to offer Jenny Craig or a shopping spree. If she still refuses, then you need to flip the script and approach her weight issue from a health perspective and encourage her to lose weight. If not, just be there because her feelings will get hurt really good one day if she still insists on walking around looking like a sausage.

Dear Deanna:

My sister listens to music that is vulgar and explicit. She listens to any type music and doesn't care that she's exposing her children to adult lyrics and content. Her children are now beginning to repeat the lyrics and she gets upset and shouts at them. She can't see that they're simply repeating and singing the songs. Other than turning off her music, what other options are there?

Anonymous
Seattle, WA

Dear Anonymous:

Your sister is ignorant and using bad judgment on this simple common sense issue. Obviously she's not a rocket scientist and should see her kids are imitating art. In this case, the bad art of explicit lyrics. Write the lyrics to some of her music and give it to her on a sheet of paper. When she looks at this mess in black and white, perhaps she'll have a change of heart and be more of an adult when it comes to what she listens to around her children.

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West challenges Obama hope

Hope on a Tightrope: Words & Wisdom

By Cornel West; Smiley Books; Hardcover; \$19.95; 246 pages; illustrated (Includes a free CD) ISBN: 978-1-4019-2186-6

By Kam Williams
Sentinel-Voice

"We are now in one of the most truly prophetic moments in the history of America. The poor and very poor are sleeping with self-destruction. The working and middle classes are struggling against paralyzing pessimism, and privileged are swinging between cynicism and hedonism. Yes, these are the circumstances that people of conscience must operate under during this moment of national truth or consequences.

We have witnessed the breakdown of the social systems that nurture our children. Our rootless children... have no cultural armor to protect them while negotiating the terrors and traumas of daily life. Young people need a community to sustain them, so that they can look death in the face and deal with disease, dread and despair. These days, we are in deep trouble.

The audacity of hope won the 2008 Democratic primary, yet we are still living in the shadow of the vicious realignment of the American electorate, provoked by the media's negative appeals to race and gender and the right-wing propaganda that bashes vulnerable groups... Real hope is grounded in a particularly messy struggle and it can be betrayed by naïve projections of a better future that ignore the necessity of doing the real work. So what we are talking about is hope on a tightrope." — Excerpted from the Introduction (pages 1-6)

As the United States stands poised to make history with the impending presidential election, it takes considerable courage for a very public Black intellectual like Dr. Cornel West to refrain from jumping headlong onto the Obama bandwagon. But Professor West has opted to remain true to his core values by sharing the sage insight that an African-American occupying the White House will not automatically mean the struggle for equality is over or that we have realized Dr. King's dream of a post-racial society where one is judged not by the color of his skin but by the content



CORNEL WEST
of his character.

In "Hope on a Tightrope," an eloquent collection of both audio (on CD) and printed meditations, West indirectly challenges Obama to prove that the "Audacity of Hope" is more than a cam-

aign slogan, asking, "What price are you willing to pay?" And the author goes on to warn that "American politics has a way of grinding the best out of a person" and that "it reduces their prudent judgment into opportunistic behavior."

Undoubtedly, there will be many folks who feel it is unfair to ask Obama to focus on the plight of the least of his brethren even before he's had a chance be inaugurated, let alone revel in the euphoria of his stunning accomplishment. Yet, as implied by the Dr. King metaphor he's been so fond of quoting on

the stump, there is a "fierce urgency of now." So I say, West must be commended for so lovingly and frankly reminding Barack of the meaning of that phrase while exploring a litany of themes in a heartfelt manner, topics ranging from leadership to faith to family to identity to education to spirituality to service to social justice.

A passionate appeal to Obama about his responsibility to the masses and the millions of modest contributors who helped put him in office, plus a timely message that "You can't save the people if you don't serve the people."

Teen gets time for grandma antics in gangster rap video

WEST PALM BEACH, Fla. (AP) — A Florida teenager has been sentenced to 18 months in juvenile detention for coaxing his senile grandmother into holding a gun and threatening to shoot "all the pigs" in a homemade "gangster rap" video.

Eighteen-year-old Michael Alfinez pleaded guilty Tuesday to elder abuse charges.

His family has said the case was a misunderstanding.

The 85-year-old grandmother can be seen in the video holding a handgun, wearing a black mask and threatening to shoot "all the pigs."

Alfinez was arrested in April after authorities seized the tape during a routine traffic stop. Alfinez and others also could be seen in the video shooting a pistol around town.

Alfinez also pleaded guilty to charges of firing out of a moving vehicle and into a building.

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