



ASK DEANNA! Real People, Real Advice

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

Dear Deanna!

One of my friends has the bad habit of talking about people. I don't have a problem until she starts being loud and the person she talks about can hear. We've had quite a few fights and embarrassing situations because of her mouth. Now that she has this reputation of being a trouble maker, people are thinking I'm the same way. My friends step away when I show up and they think I gossip and start trouble as well. I'm torn between two sets of friends and need help.

Anonymous
Ventura, CA

Dear Anonymous:

You know good and well that you've tossed your two cents into the game a few times and now you want to run and hide. The best thing you can do is tell your friend to grow up and have some discretion if she chooses to talk about people. If she can't take your advice, she's not a friend and you should only deal with her one-on-one or on the phone — unless you want to borrow trouble. Also, if she can't say anything good about people, she should be quiet.

Dear Deanna!

My husband had gastric by-pass surgery and he's a new man. The only problem with this is the fact he's a new man for everyone but me. He has become so confident, outspoken and charming that he seems like a different person. When I say something about his behavior he gets upset. He accuses me of keeping him fat all through the years and that I don't want him to be happy. Our marriage is headed for disaster and I don't know how to get through to him.

Frantic Wife
Baton Rouge, LA

Dear Frantic Wife:

There were problems in your marriage before your husband stopped being a fat boy. Now that the weight is no longer an issue, he's confident and coming out of your shadow, his insecurities are gone and he's doing things he enjoys. You should celebrate his weight loss and be proud to start on a new journey and new chapter in both your lives. Otherwise, you'll be in the corner with a silly look on your face and when he leaves you won't know what hit you.

Dear Deanna!

I was the other woman in a relationship and now that I have the man, it's not all I thought it would be. We are living together and I've learned that he's a slob, his finances aren't right and I got fooled by what I thought was a fantasy. I see his wife all the time and she looks happy and I feel miserable because of what I did to her as well as the situation I'm in. I want to tell this man to go back to his wife but he thinks things are fine. How do I tell him my true feelings?

The Other Woman
Online Reader

Dear Other Woman:

Boy oh boy, did you get fooled thinking somebody else's grass was greener on the other side. Actually you got what you bargained for because you had no business with someone else's husband. You should feel bad because you wrecked someone's home, messed up your life and he's probably on his way to cheat with someone else. As for the wife being happy, you did her a favor by making it easy to get rid of him. You made your bed hard now sleep in it!

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'Soul' honors a life rediscovered

My True Soul: Exploited, Apprehended & Broken Within

By Shawna M. Harrison;
True Vine Publishing
Company; Paperback;
\$14.99; 102 pages
ISBN: 978-097860887-3
By Kam Williams
Sentinel-Voice

"Sometimes we are exploited in a manner that's conniving, creepy, dishonest, cruel, sick, and most of all in an insane way. This is my story of feeling exploited... I endured sexual abuse at an early age from my brother, my uncle, and my father which caused both depression and bedwetting, as well as caused me to self-mutilate the body God gave me. These

were the three most important men in my life that were supposed to teach me about boys and protect me from men...

The first 29 years of my life have been exactly what they were. With God in my life, the next 29 years are already looking better! I dedicate my autobiography to God. Father, I have found my way back to you and I promise, I'm never leaving again." — Excerpted from the Dedication

Shawna Harrison has experienced nothing but misery most of her life until recently, starting with sexual abuse at an early age at the hands of the males she most trusted in life. This led her not only to

have suicidal tendencies, but to seek comfort in weed and cocaine and in a string of unsatisfactory sexual relationships with lesbians.

She was suicidal, started dealing to support her habit, and finally bottomed-out after she got arrested and had to spend six months behind bars in the penitentiary.

Today, she's a gainfully-employed Born Again Christian who has renounced drugs and homosexuality, saying she's now saving herself for marriage to Mr. Right.

Shawna recounts her harrowing 29-year ordeal in "My True Soul: Exploited, Apprehended & Broken Within," a heartbreaking tale

of survival which leaves little to the imagination.

Because the author holds nothing back in her graphic descriptions of her tragic roller coaster ride, the memoir proves to be a compelling page-turner that you just can't put down.

It's a lot like watching a train wreck, except that it ends on an optimistic note, since Shawna was saved and has dedicated herself to Christ and is surrounded by a new set of friends.

Praise the Lord! Let's just pray that she can resist the temptation to revert while she's trying to overcome those traumatic formative years when she was exploited instead of protected.



Sentinel-Voice photo by Ramon Savoy

V.I.P.s attended the unveiling of *Who's Who in Black Las Vegas* book. L to R: *Who's Who Publishing Co.* founder C. Sunny Martin, City Councilman Ricki Barlow, *Who's Who Las Vegas* associate publisher Wendy Welch, entertainer George Wallace, County Commissioner Lawrence Weekly and *Who's Who Publishing Co.* senior partner Ernie Sullivan.

Who's Who Vegas celebrates best

By Shelia B. Thompson Special to Sentinel-Voice

More than 800 gathered at Bally's Hotel and Casino recently to celebrate African-American leaders—past, present and future. A veritable who's who of Vegas V.I.P.s was on hand for the unveiling of the inaugural edition of "Who's Who in Black Las Vegas," a voluminous guidebook of African-American movers and shakers.

Honorees included Las Vegas City Councilman Ricky Barlow, North Las Vegas City Manager Gregory Rose, State Assemblyman Morse Arberry, State Sen. Steven Horsford, 9th Circuit Court of Appeals Judge Johnnie Rawlinson, as well as comedian George Wallace. The book also featured an

extensive list of entrepreneurs, community leaders and legendary figures, including William "Bob" Bailey.

Bailey's resume includes serving as master of ceremonies at the now-closed Moulin Rouge Hotel and Casino, the city's first interracial casino, in 1955; being a pioneering figure in the local civil rights movement; serving in the administration of President George H.W. Bush; and advocating for minority businesses.

"I have lived in Las Vegas for 53 years and have experienced racial discriminations for the past 50 years," Bailey told the crowd. "I am of the old guard that marched on the Strip and tilled the soil to open opportunities for younger generations to grow

into jobs and executive positions on the Strip."

Bailey encouraged everyone to commit to nurturing young people.

C. Sunny Martin, chief executive officer of *Who's Who Publishing Co.*, was on hand to oversee the festivities. Martin founded the company in 1989 "to highlight the positive achievements of African-Americans and provide a valuable resource and networking guide for the entire community," according to the *Who's Who* website.

"Images of Blacks in Las Vegas are typically portrayed as athletes, singers or dancers, but Blacks excel in a myriad of professions," he said. "It's refreshing to see professional African-Americans in a lot of different professions and to be able to

look at the recognition they deserve."

Martin worked with Wendy Welch, associate publisher of the Las Vegas edition, on the project. Welch said the book serves an invaluable educational resource. "Black children need to be cognizant of the broad range of occupations that exists for their future careers within the valley," she said.

County Commissioner Lawrence Weekly and KVBC anchor Angela Martin emceed the event. Anthony Williams, a 19-year-old recently accepted into the Berkley College of Music, received a standing ovation for an exceptional violin performance.

Many of the honorees expressed gratitude about their (See *Who's Who*, Page 7)