



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 worried about my sister because she is the type of woman that has to be in a relationship. She recently ended a 6-year romance and after two weeks, already getting serious about someone new. I think she needs to clear her head and realize she is on the rebound. She has already told this man she loves him and I want her to slow down. What can I say to her in order to spare her feelings but still get my message across?

Anonymous
St. Louis, MO

Dear Anonymous:

It's good that you're concerned because this is your sister and you love her. If she's not being hurt and there aren't any foul signs of abuse or cheating from this man, you should wait and see what happens. However, it's too early to see his true character and as an experienced dater, your sister should see the signs when they appear. Share your honest feelings with her about slowing down and let her know she has your full support if things don't work out.

Dear Deanna!

My boyfriend and I have dated for 3-years and I gave him a key to my apartment. Now that he can come in, eat, sleep and go as he pleases, things have changed. He doesn't come over as often and when he does, it's late at night. I've asked him for a key to his place but he said no without an explanation. I told him I wanted my key back and he said if I take it from him or change the locks, the relationship is over. Was it a mistake to give him a key in the first place?

Tanya
Online Reader

Dear Tanya:

If his name isn't on the lease then he shouldn't have a key. You made yourself vulnerable because he knows you won't entertain anyone else since he can show up at any time. He's not going to give you a key because he's not as committed as you are. You should take your key and if that's the only thing that can end the relationship, then you don't need him. If he refuses, then change your locks, make him knock on the door for a visit and keep it moving.

Dear Deanna!

I was jailed for the past 15 years. I'm free now and having a hard time adjusting. So many things have changed and I feel lost in a world that is so fast. I can't use a computer, the cell phones are intimidating and everything costs so much. It's a challenge trying to survive and make it working minimum wage. I never want to go back to jail but drug dealing made my life so easy. What can I do to keep from giving in the urge to deal drugs again?

Sam P.
Decatur, GA

Dear Sam:

Pray hard and remember the life you lost in jail. Think about the confinement, prison food and neglect you suffered. If that's not enough, think of the people you destroy while selling them drugs. If you're doing well on your minimum wage job, then go to the next level and get a second job. Once you get that going, max yourself out with college courses. You'll be so busy making honest money and improving yourself that you won't think about drug dealing.

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Black series casualty of NPR ax

By Arin Mikailian
Special to Sentinel-Voice

(NNPA) — National Public Radio has announced plans to cancel two of its programs, including "News and Notes," its only news show geared toward African-American listeners.

Citing budget woes in a Dec. 10 statement, NPR President Dennis Haarsager said that "News and Notes," along with "Day to Day," would end their runs on March 20.

"The difficult decision to cancel two programs and eliminate the jobs of valued NPR employees was made after an exhaustive review of our entire organization, and with the greatest reluctance," Haarsager wrote.

"With all of NPR's revenue sources under pressure, these actions were necessary to responsibly stabilize our finances and put NPR on a realistic path."

In addition to the termination of the "News and Notes" and "Day to Day" staff, Haarsager said a total of 64 cuts will be made to NPR's staff of 889 as well as the elimination of 21 vacant positions.

NPR predicted a \$2 million budget deficit in July that was labeled "relatively manageable" in the press release, but that figure has since grown to \$23 million for the upcoming fiscal year.

Both "Day to Day" and "News and Notes" are taped inside NPR's Culver City studios.

"News and Notes" made its debut in 2004 with its first host, Ed Gordon, the former anchor of "BET News." A year and a half later, Gordon left the program and was replaced by current host Farai Chideya.

Since its inception, "News and Notes" focused on running news stories involving current affairs in African-American communities throughout the nation and all over the world.

Upon hearing the news, blogger and frequent "News and Notes" guest Jasmyne Cannick said she was very troubled by the program's fate. On her blog and in an interview, the one-time congressional aide criticized NPR for what she sees as inordinately high turnover among its African-American personalities.

Two years before "News and Notes" went on the air, NPR made its first effort to draw in African-American

listeners when it hired Tavis Smiley to host his own radio program. Smiley left NPR in 2004, saying that the radio network did not do a good enough job of promoting his program.

"It seems like every year or two or every 18 months there's this turnover with African-American programming," Cannick said.

Cannick also said NPR could have cut other pro-

gramming in order to have been able to keep its only African-American-oriented program.

"In terms of your roster, you have all these other programs that are duplicates of themselves," she said.

But NPR spokeswoman Anna Christopher said the decision to cut "News and Notes" and "Day to Day" from the radio network's programming schedule was

strictly based on financial restrictions, not content.

"Canceling programs and cutting valuable staff were the last things we wanted to do," she said. "The decisions to cancel 'News and Notes' and 'Day to Day' were driven entirely by the severe economic downturn and our need to reduce expenses immediately."

Arin Mikailian writes for the Los Angeles WAVE.

NAACP: TV networks dismal at diversity on and off screen

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Nearly a decade after the NAACP condemned a "virtual Whiteout" in broadcast TV, the civil rights group said major networks have stalled in their efforts to further ethnic diversity on-screen and off.

Television shows of the future could be even less inclusive because of a failure to cultivate young minority stars and to bring minorities into decision-making positions, NAACP President and CEO Benjamin Todd Jealous said.

The effect on the country could be profound, Jealous said.

"This is America: So goes TV, so goes reality. We don't think it's any accident that before we had a Black president in reality, we had a Black president on TV," he said, referring to the chief executive portrayed by Dennis Haysbert on Fox's "24."

A "critical lack of programming by, for or about people of color" can be traced in part to the lack of minorities who have the power to approve new series or make final creative decisions, said Vicangelo Bulluck, executive director of NAACP's Hollywood bureau.

In a report due to be released soon, the NAACP calls on networks to revisit a 2000 agreement to diversify the ranks of actors, writers, directors and executives. It also seeks to establish a task force with network executives, the NAACP and other civil rights groups.

The report raises the possibility of political action if progress is lacking, including a boycott against an unspecified network and its major advertisers or class-action litigation against the networks and parent companies.

Particularly disturbing,

Jealous said, is the course charted by the CW, born of the defunct UPN and WB networks that had featured a number of Black-oriented series including "Moesha" and "The Steve Harvey Show."

"Those two networks provided an opportunity for young talent of color in this town... They merged into a network which appears to have systematically cut programming targeted to communities of color," Jealous said.

CW's lineup includes White-oriented shows "Gossip Girl" and "90210," although it also airs the Black sitcoms "Everybody Hates Chris" and "The Game."

A movie star such as Will Smith emerged because he could gain early exposure in the TV comedy "The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air," Jealous said.

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HOT AND SPICY!

Part of the City of Las Vegas Jazz Series, dualing musicians Idalberto Perdomo, left, and Rick Arroyo take turns in the battle of congas supremacy at the Reed Whipple Cultural Center on Friday. The series highlights the best in jazz music and stylings.

Sentinel-Voice photo by Ramon Savoy