

Reader from Portland:

I received an opinion from a reader in Portland, Ore. who felt the Ask Deanna! column encourages relationships to bust. That is not true. My stand is if a relationship is not working, contains physical abuse, mind games, trickery or infidelity, then life is too short and you need to keep it moving. For marriage, which is a sacred bond, you seek forgiveness, counseling, God's divine intervention and healing. However, extreme marital breakdowns or those with societal violations may be on the last leg even after going through the process of reconciliation. Separation or divorce then becomes the outcome after the last resort.

Dear Deanna!

I read in your March 29, 2004 column about the lady finding condoms in her fiancé's pocket. I agree with you that if he had the condoms, they belonged to him. My boyfriend did the same thing. He told the same lie and 9 months later had a baby by another woman because he was in the street messing around. I left him when it happened. --Jackie; Topeka, KS

Dear Jackie:

It's good you were able to make a strong decision that was good for you. Your comments confirm the



Real People, Real Advice
An advice column known for its fearless approach to reality based subjects!

belief that people go through many of the same situations but have different outcomes. Keep reading the column and please know your support is greatly appreciated.

Dear Deanna!

I'm the man from the column dated Feb. 4 who was spotted in a restaurant by my wife's best friend. These women write to you with one side of the story and you take a feminist approach and beat down the men. You must be bitter or had your feelings hurt a couple of times because you come off like a man hater. Yes, I was in a restaurant with a female but nothing happened other than dinner. --Tyronne; Chicago, IL

Dear Tyronne:

Please know I am too blessed to be stressed. For anyone to send an e-mail or write a letter to Ask Deanna! indicates a serious concern or problem in their life. Ask Deanna! catches readers off guard because some people have a hard time accepting hardcore truth. They prefer guessing games, beating around empty bushes and lopsided feel good honesty. For your rendezvous, your wife should have been with you or should have known about it. Advice, suggestions and recommendations considered direct, frank, crass and most importantly honest will continue to flow and spades will be called spades when necessary.

Ask Deanna is written by Deanna M. Write Ask Deanna! Email: askdeanna1@yahoo.com or write: Deanna M, P.O. Box 88847, Los Angeles, CA 90009. Website: www.askdeanna.com

Helping Neighborhood Pride

Clean-ups are response to recent violence

A variety of activists and community groups are launching a pilot project aimed at restoring pride, prosperity, and peace of mind to north and northeast neighborhoods recently rocked by a series of gang-related shootings.

A pair of neighborhood activists with the support of the North Northeast Business Association, Cleaner Image Maintenance, SOLV, the Northeast Coalition of Neighborhoods, and a variety of local neighborhood and business associations are behind this unusual neighborhood clean-up effort.

"Nothing is Impossible" is designed to bring communities together to meet and greet their neighbors while sprucing up neighborhood properties, including those

abandoned and neglected properties, while raising funds for future programs aimed at building community, decreasing criminal activity, and keeping neighborhood youth away from gangs and guns.

Cleaner Image Maintenance, a local company specializing in commercial maintenance, has pledged support of the effort in the form of workers who will train and supervise volunteer work crews cleaning and maintaining businesses and properties throughout the neighborhood.

On Saturday, April 17, volunteers will begin canvassing neighborhoods offering clean-up and light maintenance services such as raking, windows, washing vehicles and hedge trimming to homeowners, property owners and

businesses in exchange for a voluntary pledge. All pledged donations will stay in the neighborhoods they are raised in, and will fund future organized neighborhood projects. Boise, King, Humboldt, Concordia, Vernon, 42nd Avenue, Irvington and Woodlawn neighborhoods have already pledged a commitment.

Work begins on Saturday, May 1 and will continue through the summer months.

Individual and business volunteers are still needed for cash and supplies donations, as well as work crews.

For information, contact Gary Marschke at 503-284-9013 or 503-869-8578 or gmarschke@comcast.net or Bridget Bayer at 503-998-5121 or e-mail bridges@easystreet.com.

Candidates Tackle Police Accountability

A mayoral and commissioner candidate's forum, hosted by the Alliance for Police and Community Accountability, is from 10 a.m. to noon on Saturday, April 17 at the YWCA, 1111 S.W. 10th Ave., 3rd floor conference room.

The public event brings Tom Potter, James Posey, Phil Busse, Nick Fish, Sam Adams, Woody Broadnax, Jason Newell, Randy Leonard, Frank Dixon and others to answer moderated questions about police reform and community policing.

Agenda Set for Neil Kelly Day

The Rotary Club of Albina will be awarding three scholarships to high school seniors from the north and northeast area at a Neil Kelly Day Awards Luncheon from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. on Friday, May 14 at Shenanigan's on Swan Island at 4575 N. Channel Ave.

The North Northeast Business Association will present its

Neil Kelly Distinguished Service Award and other awards to community businesses and individuals.

The keynote speaker is State Sen. Margaret Carter, a longtime African-American community leader from northeast Portland.

For more information, visit www.albinarotary.org.

Advocate for Survivors

Volunteers are needed as on-call rape victim advocates, to respond to local hospitals to provide assistance and support to victims of sexual assault. For more information, contact the Multnomah County District Attorney's Office, Victims Assistance Program at 503-988-3222 or visit www.mcda.us/va/rvap.php.



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