

# Ask



# Deanna!

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

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

**Dear Deanna!**

I'm 22 and learned that the man who raised me is not my real father. All these years, I had no idea he could be a stepdad. I feel empty as I now look at him as just another man instead of my dad. How do I deal with this and keep from hurting his feelings? -- N.T.; Boise, Idaho

**Dear N.T.**

All Daddies can't be classified as Fathers. Your stepdad may not be the sperm donor, but he's the one that fed you, clothed you and kept a roof over your head. Look at him for the good he has done. Don't cheapen his efforts because he lacks the official title of "Real Daddy." You must care for him if you are concerned about his feelings. Be glad he was in the home for you and not on a child support poster.

**Dear Deanna!**

I'm a 27-year-old single parent with 4 children by 3 men. I'm not on welfare but I work 2 jobs because of my limited skills. I still struggle to make ends meet. How do I find the fathers and get them to help me? - Struggling; Queens, N.Y.

**Dear Struggling,**

You're a positive role model and a good example for

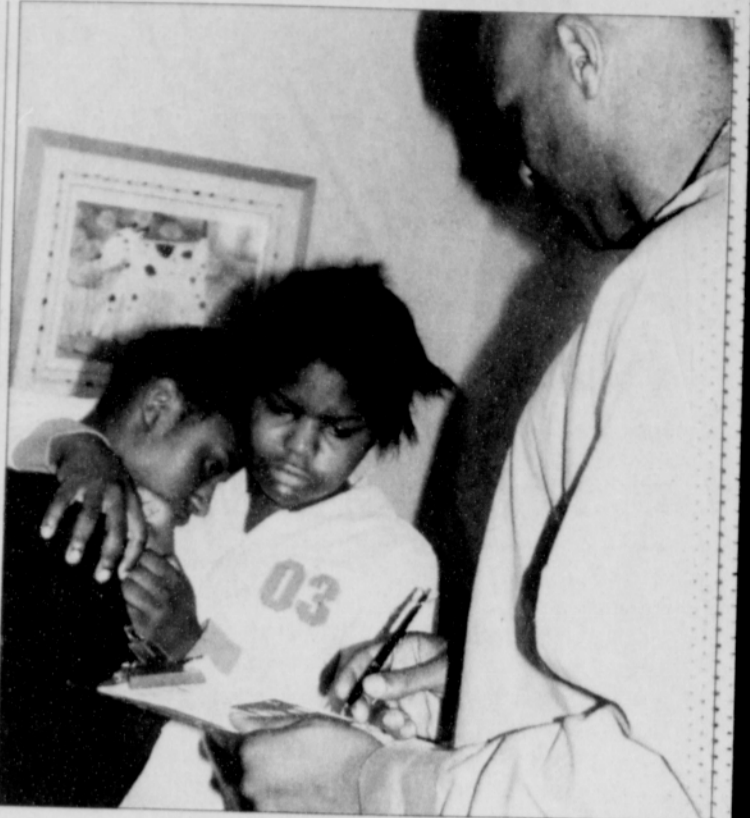
your children. Get the government involved. The government can't find Osama Bin Laden but they have a good track record of catching deadbeat dads. Contact your local child support enforcement agency to start the process. Don't feel guilty about getting your child support entitlements. Think of the phrase "Baby Need a New Pair of Shoes."

**Dear Deanna!**

I'm sick and tired of men disrespecting me because of my wardrobe. If I want to dress sexy and wear hoochie or revealing clothes to the mall or grocery store, then I should have this freedom without men trying to run lame pick up lines on me or assume I'm easy. What's your suggestion? -- Dressing Sexy; Nashville, Tenn.

**Dear Dressing Sexy,**

The mall and grocery store isn't the place for you to shake what your mama gave you. Respect yourself and others by dressing appropriately when you're in public places. You attract what you project. You can wear whatever you want, but remember men are visually stimulated and if you dress to make yourself look cheap and easy then you're setting yourself up for unwanted attention. If the shoe fits, wear it.



PHOTOS BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER  
Actors Whitney Badon (left) and Emily Camel-Harris star in their video production project through Jefferson High School's Club Drug Awareness Project. They are pictured with teacher Phil Hopkins, who plays a doctor in the video.

## Mural Artists Misidentified

Students pictured last week in a photo enjoying a recently completed mural at Roosevelt High School are not the artists who created it. The mural, capturing the diversity of Roosevelt's students and faculty, was largely made possible by the tireless work and dedication by the school's art teacher, Roger Friedel. Portland State University student Anna Agsten and Professor Isaka Shamsud-din also helped create the mural with students from Roosevelt High School.

## Ethiopians Celebrate Anniversary

Area residents are invited to join the Oregon Ethiopian Community Organization in celebrating two decades in Oregon and southwest Washington with two days of festivities over the Memorial Day weekend.

The scheduled events include a dinner to benefit the organization, a concert by one of the most celebrated Ethiopian performers, and a youth and adult soccer tournament.

The dinner gala on Sunday, May

**Dinner Gala**  
Sunday, May 30 • 6pm  
Polish Library Assn. Hall

**Soccer Tournament**  
Sat-Sun, May 29-30  
Jefferson High School

**Concert**  
Saturday, May 29 • 9pm  
Madison High School

30 at 6 p.m. will include a traditional Ethiopian art auction, poetry readings, and a presentation by Dr. Badege Bishaw, co-founder of the Ethiopian Tree Fund.

The soccer tournament, both Saturday, May 29 and Sunday, May 30, is at Jefferson High School, 5210 N. Kerby. The concert is on Saturday at 9 p.m. at Madison High School, 1125 S.E. Madison; and the dinner is at the Polish Library Association Hall, 3832 N. Interstate next to Kaiser Permanente.

## Honing Skills

continued from Front

The teens are creating a film and public service announcements advising their peers to stay off drugs. Meanwhile, they are learning real-life video production skills by writing, recording, editing and acting in the film.

"They're writing their own

scripts and learning about drugs and how they can affect them in a negative way and how drugs affect our environment," Hopkins said.

Students are currently making the film, and intend to distribute it to high schools throughout the state after screenings in September.



DON'T WORRY. THEY WON'T EAT YOU.

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They can't even bite. Darlingtonia, a rare breed of carnivorous plants that grow in the cool wetlands of Southern Oregon, don't have teeth. They lure insects in with sweet nectar and trap them with stiff hairs and slippery wax.

There are very few places people can easily see Darlingtonia in the wild because their habitat is extremely limited and it's usually difficult to get to. Luckily, anyone who is interested can see Darlingtonia up close in an easily accessible state park.

Darlingtonia State Natural Site is tucked along US 101, three miles north of Florence. Step on to the path and you enter a lush forest of rhododendron and other wetland plants. Follow the boardwalk and you'll emerge into a narrow clearing filled with green and purple Darlingtonia. You can even hear the sound of water trickling through the soil if you listen carefully.

All across the state, Lottery profits help maintain Oregon's hidden treasure state parks and keep them open to the public. In fact, Lottery profits help support all 230 Oregon State Parks. The ones you know and the ones you don't.



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Oregon

oregonlottery.org Lottery games are based on chance and should be played for entertainment only.