

Ask Deanna!



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

Dear Deanna!

I just finished high school and I don't want to go to college. I worked as a stripper my entire senior year and now I want to do it full-time because I can make more money. My mother's having a fit and my dad is going off on me. Why can't they understand I can make more money now than with a college degree? --Anonymous; Los Angeles

Dear Anonymous:

Sounds like you bumped your head on the stripper pole. Your parents are right in their feelings because they probably sacrificed

and went without things to save for your education. You are very childish in your thinking. What happens in two years when you're 20 years old looking 40, run down, and tired? Right now you make a dollar per song and if you think you'll make less with a degree, I suggest you wake up and come back to the real world—fast.

Dear Deanna!

My wife cheated and destroyed our family 6 years ago. I paid child support but she was vindictive and kept my kids from me. Now my daughter's pregnant and ran to me because her mother kicked

her out of the house. I took her in but she disrespects me and throws up the past. I want this to stop. --James Todd; Milwaukee, Wisc.

Dear James:

If your daughter lives under your roof, she has to abide by your rules. Put your foot down and let her know what the deal is and start the process of explaining and healing from the past. It's not too late to share good values with your daughter that your silly ex-wife never had to begin with. Stay firm and do what you need in order to ensure your daughter's

a better mother than your ex-wife was.

Dear Deanna!

I'm in prison and I read your column every week. I've looked at people's lives and situations and realize my life wasn't that bad and I messed it up with stupidity and crime. I'm also glad to see you don't judge the inmates and criminals that are locked up and help us as well. When I get out, I'm staying out of trouble. --Chris; Raleigh, N.C. Prison

Dear Chris:

A mind is a terrible thing to waste

if idle and it's good to see you're reading while in prison. Continue to receive wisdom from all venues that will make your life better when you're released. Stay positive and encouraged and you'll be able to stay on the right path when you get back into society. Besides, criminals and inmates are still people and need love and support too.

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Racial Gaps Endure

continued from Front

from last year to this year.

"Last year, I said I looked forward to seeing these numbers improve. Our update, however, does not represent an improvement," said James Diffley of Global Insight, the Philadelphia-based economic research firm that compiled the data. "There is a gap between black America and white America."

Among the report's findings:

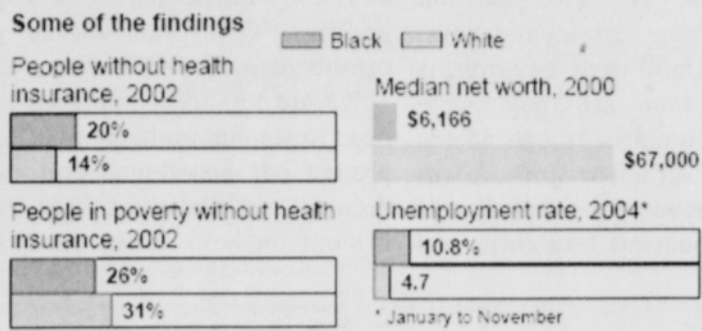
- Blacks have more than double the unemployment rate of whites.
- Less than half of blacks own homes compared to more than three-fourths of whites.
- Black youth are more likely to have poorly trained teachers, live in poverty and not have health insurance than whites.

Still, the report also makes clear that black America has made significant gains in some areas.

Since 1960, when black men earned only 50 cents for every dollar earned by white men, income gaps have narrowed as the black middle class has grown and become more educated. In 2000, black men earned 64 cents on the dollar, according to Thomas M. Shapiro, a professor of law and social policy at Brandeis University who wrote an es-

Inequality still present in America

Black Americans' overall well-being is nearly three-fourths that of whites, according to a study by the National Urban League.



SOURCES: Bureau of Labor, National Urban League, Census Bureau AP

say, "The Racial Wealth Gap," in the Urban League's report.

But Shapiro argues that income merely reflects recent advances.

In contrast, net worth shows how families accumulate gains over generations. "Wealth really rounds the picture out and gives us a deeper perspective," said Shapiro, whose essay is based on his book, "The Hidden Cost of Being African American," published last year.

The median net worth of black versus white households has remained virtually unchanged for more than a decade: In 2000, black households on average were worth \$6,166 compared to \$67,000 for whites, census data show. The ratio was virtually identical in the early 1990s.

Since most Americans build wealth through home ownership, inequities in the housing market explain much of the

gap, Shapiro said. Historically, blacks were explicitly barred from buying homes in some neighborhoods.

Today, studies show, among blacks and whites with comparable credit histories, blacks are 60 percent more likely to be denied home loans as whites, he said.

This wealth gap, Shapiro writes, "is reversing gains earned in schools and on jobs and making inequality worse."

The Urban League report also includes essays on such wide-ranging topics as government inaction regarding reported abuse by law enforcement officers and the theory that black students underachieve because they fear being accused of "acting white."

It concludes with several recommendations for change, including: renewing the federal Voting Rights Act before it expires in 2007; creating a national program to reincorporate former prisoners into society; and, setting aside government funding for universal preschool.

It also stresses that middle class black Americans should donate time and money to help alleviate inequality.

"Those who have achieved need to give back," Morial said.

American Indian Radio Series

Wisdom of the Elders Radio Program extends an invitation to tune in for an American Indian event taking place Sunday, April 24 from 1 to 5 p.m. at the Native American Student and Community Center at Portland State University.

The celebration will acknowledge the elders and storytellers that participate but also to raise funds for the third installment of the radio series. The event will also honor the radio production team and other individuals and organizations that have provided encouragement and support.

The next series will following the western portion of the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial Trail, with

eight one-hour programs featuring: indigenous elders, tribal historians, storytellers, and song carriers from thirteen nations living in the Bitterroot Mountains and along the Columbia River.

Each series includes oral history, storytelling, music, and environmental perspective of thirteen tribes living along the eastern side of the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail.

The series will be distributed to audiences via AIROS (American Indian Radio on Satellite), NPR (National Public Radio), community and college radio stations, and the group's website at www.wisdomoftheelders.org.

School Board Forum Saturday 'Meet and Greet' at Blazers Club

The Blazers Boys and Girls Club, 5250 N.E. Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard, will host its first ever citywide school board "Meet and Greet" Saturday with most, if not all candidates to the Portland School Board.

The purpose is to provide an outlet by which the candidates and voting public can directly interact.

Nancy Smith, a Jefferson High School parent, thinks the fact that school board candidates will meet in northeast Port-

land, ground zero for north and northeast Portland schools impacted by closures and budget cuts, suggests that the board hopefuls care about what is happening in this community.

The evening will begin at 3:30 p.m. with a 30 minute mix and mingle. At 4 p.m., the panelists will share a brief bio and answer the question, "What motivated you to run for a seat on the school board?" There will be a brief game of Portland Public Schools trivia whereby the candidates will be able to show off their knowledge of PPS. The remainder of the evening will consist of a questions and answers.



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