

Ask

Deanna!



Real People, Real Advice

An advice column known for its fearless approach to reality based subjects!

Dear Deanna!

My best friend has become a rude and arrogant person and I'm being affected. She has a nasty personality and people have stopped being friends with me because they think I'm like her. We have a 15 year friendship and it's not that easy to end things. I feel torn between two evils and it's causing me stress. What is the best way to handle this dilemma? --Angel; Las Vegas, Nev.

Dear Angel:

You didn't wake up one day and see this situation for the first time. With the lengthy friendship you know exactly what you're dealing

with. Obviously something has happened to make you unhappy and now you're unsure what side of the fence you want to be on. If you have an issue with your long-term friend, address it. If there are issues with others not wanting your friendship, address that as well and keep it moving.

Dear Deanna!

I've messed up my entire first year of college. I haven't gone to classes and now it's time to tell my parents. I'm afraid because now I want to do the right thing and not waste their money anymore. I'm embarrassed because I know I've let them down. I'm behind in my studies and all the

partying wasn't worth it. Do I need to do this by writing them a letter, a call on the phone or should I go home and tell them?

Dear Michelle:

You need to respect your parents and their efforts and give them the courtesy of a face-to-face discussion. You didn't act responsibly and failed to appreciate their sacrifice to send you to college. You should be ashamed of yourself. Talk with your parents honestly and share the reasons that caused you to waste their college money. The next step is a sincere apology, a commitment to fulfill

your obligations if they finance the rest of your education and a promise to re-pay the wasted school term once you graduate.

Dear Deanna!

I've been friends with a lady for a long while. Recently she's been pushing me to take things to a new level and begin dating. I really like her as a friend and would like to keep it that way. What's the best method to share this without insulting her self-esteem? --Anonymous; St. Louis, Mo.

Dear Anonymous:

It's best to be honest with your thoughts and feelings about this

matter. However, in this instance, your delivery and tone can be the turning point for this friendship. Place yourself in a neutral environment, have a peaceful attitude and simply share your reasons for not wanting a relationship. Then you should highlight the positive attributes of your friendship and she should understand and respect you more.

Ask Deanna is written by Deanna M. Write Ask Deanna! Email: askdeanna@yahoo.com or 264 S. LaCienega Blvd. Suite 1283 Beverly Hills, CA 90211. Website: www.askdeanna.com

COURAGEOUS AFRICAN AMERICANS



Members of the 555th Parachute Infantry Battalion, the first and only African American paratroop battalion in American history, peer through the open door of the Troop Carrier Command C-47 over Southern Oregon.

Oregon's Lost World War II Hero

Editor's note: Thanks to Roger Brandt of Cave Junction, Ore. for the following story:

One of Oregon's most important World War II stories celebrates its 60th anniversary this year in a tradition of obscurity because no one is certain the exact location of where it happened.

The soldiers who played out this drama were paratroopers from the 555th Parachute Infantry Battalion, the first and only African American paratroop battalion in American history.

Also called "The Triple Nickles" the battalion served the U.S. Army from 1944-47. They came to Pendleton, Ore. during the war to work as smokejumpers but their mission was closely tied to the increasing threat of Japanese incendiary bombs dropped in the forests by balloons.

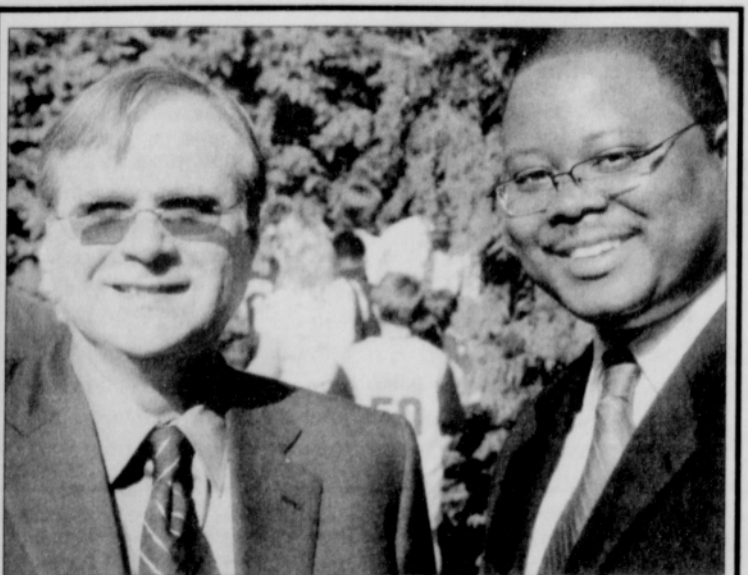
Malvin Brown was a medic

who on Aug. 6, 1945 parachuted into the forest with other soldiers from the 555th to fight one of many fires started all over southwest Oregon by a massive lightning storm.

As he approached the ground his parachute was snared by a tall pine tree leaving him hanging a hundred or more feet above the ground. He fell to his death trying to get down and in that moment became the first smokejumper death in American history.

It was in the defense of our nation that a smokejumper lost his life and that smokejumper was Brown, an African American soldier who died for his country in the Cascade Mountains of Oregon.

To this day, no marker or monument commemorates this important moment in World War Two history, a reminder of how easily we all forget the sacrifices made by Americans on the home front.



Blazing a New Trail

Paul Allen, owner of the Portland Trail Blazers, speaks with Kelvin Hall, executive director of the Equal Advocacy Center, about the new direction of the NBA team at a recent community event at Portland's International Rose Test Garden in Washington Park. In July, the Trail Blazers named Nate McMillan, former coach of the Seattle SuperSonics, as new head coach of the team to replace Maurice Cheeks.

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13⁹⁹

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