

# Ask

## Deanna!



**Real People, Real Advice**

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

**Dear Deanna!**

I have a crush on a lady that I've admired for a few years. I've watched her relationships and get the feeling she's a bad judge of character and dates certain men just to have someone. I've compared myself to all these men and know that I would be good for her. I'm not her typical bad boy type and I'm scared she'll reject me. Should I be myself and approach her or should I be prepared to be what she wants? What do I do? --Afraid and In Love; Washington, D.C.

**Dear Afraid:**

You need to stop being a stalker and get yourself together. You have too much time on your hands if

you've been minding someone else's business. Until you talk to the lady, you have no idea what she's looking for or why she selects her dates. If you want to date her, be yourself and approach her with respect. Trying to be something you're not will be exposed and you'll look foolish. Take a chance, be a real man and accept the outcome.

**Dear Deanna!**

My wife denies me in every area of our relationship. We don't share, go out together or anything else. The way we live reminds me of college when I had a roommate. When we were dating, things were great. She changed immediately

after marriage. The only interaction we have is when she needs money or I need to pay bills. I think she's seeing someone from her past and using me for security. How do I handle this? --Tyrone; Omaha, Neb.

**Dear Tyrone:**

Your wife wants "oldtime" treatment with Y2K benefits and you're the ATM. While dating she looked at you with loving dollar signs in her eyes and knew she would be taken care of after marriage. You have the right to know what's going on and you have the power to address the issue. Stop her in her tracks and seek answers. If she doesn't cooperate, suggest joint counseling to fix the problem or the bank is closed.

**Dear Deanna!**

I had a fight with one of my best friends because she touched my husband in a way I felt was disrespectful. I immediately told her not to touch my husband that way. She laughed in my face and told me that I was too serious and needed to loosen up. She then touched him again and I slapped her and the fight started. My husband didn't say a word about the touch but told me I was stupid for fighting. Should I be mad at him? --Elise; Birmingham, Ala.

**Dear Elise:**

Your husband didn't say anything because he liked being touched but

was probably too stunned to say anything. Your girlfriend was wrong and will go further if allowed because she obviously has an agenda. You did the right thing because if a man touched you, your husband would've done the same thing. There's no need to be mad because you handled your business and need to watch your friends and keep it moving.

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

He was born more on Aug. 7, 1894 in Greenville, Ala. at a time when black men were generally forced into the hardest of work, ruefully shortening their lives.

But Mark Matthews beat those odds by a life that spanned three centuries, dying at the astounding age of 111 last August. A headstrong and diligent young man, Matthews would find his way into the United States Army while barely a teenager. Conflicting sources put him at 14, 15 or 16 years old when he persuaded a work boss to take him to a military outpost and verify his age as 18. Regardless of his age, Matthews proved himself a worthy American patriot, immediately gaining a stunning proficiency as a small arms expert.

As a young child, Matthews was deeply attached to farm animals, particularly horses. Nurturing small ponies may have helped to heal emotional wounds that came from losing both his mother and a twin sister during his early childhood.

In 1904, at 10 years of age he began delivering newspapers on horseback. His strong work ethic quickly earned him an envied position as a horse tender at a nearby racetrack around 1905, almost a decade before the First World War.

# COURAGEOUS

## AFRICAN AMERICANS



by Ron Weber

### Buffalo Soldier Lived to 111

While sweeping out a stall one day he saw a strange sight. A group of highly polished black men entered the track to bet on the horses. They wore the most prestigious clothing at ever seen. These men



Mark Matthews

were the well-regarded Buffalo Soldiers of the United States of America.

Not even the promise of an elaborate career in America's finest equestrian centers could change

Matthews mind that day. Unable to contain his excitement, he went straight to the men and told them he wanted to join the Army and become a Buffalo Soldier. Before another birthday passed, he was on his way to a recruiting station in Huntington, Va. After basic training, he was found to be a natural horseman to join the 10th Cavalry as a Buffalo Soldier.

For the next three decades, Matthews moved up through military ranks while helping America through two world wars. As a first sergeant, he would command almost 100 soldiers and was introduced to the legendary black commander Benjamin O. Davis.

Impressed with his determination, Davis brought Matthews under his command. As part of a special cavalry, they would be deployed in the South Pacific, Panama, and then to Saipan where they experienced brutal combat.

Just after the end of the World War II, Matthews retired from the

Army and began a second career in security work at the Nation Institute of Health. He retired from his second career after a total of 50 years of work.

Ironically, he would live for almost another 50 years. Perhaps the National Institute of Health should have taken a closer look at him. He certainly would be a living example of how to maintain good health and live an extremely long life. He could also give us some lessons in staying married as he and his wife Genevieve, were together for over five decades before her death in the 1980s. Four children, nine grandchildren, and 17 great grandchildren survived them both.

Early in his third century Matthews was brought to the White House where he met with President Clinton. On his 108th birthday, Colin Powell joined him for celebrations. Three years later, on Sept. 13, 2005, America's oldest Buffalo Soldier succumbed to pneumonia.

Fittingly, 1st Sergeant Mark Matthews was given a hero's funeral and buried at the Arlington Nation Cemetery.

Ron Weber is a writer and speaker on African American history and a regular contributor to the Portland Observer.



### Tribute Keeps Dream Alive

continued ▲ from Front

The entire six-hour program will be simulcast on KBOO Radio, 90.7 FM, Portland Public Schools Television Services/Jefferson High Television, Channel 28 and Portland Community Media.

A donation of \$3 or three items of non-perishable food will be ac-

cepted at the door. Sponsors include, Portland Public Schools, Portland Association of Teachers, McDonalds, Dignity Memorial locations, SAFECO, Oregon Education Association, Providence Health System, Enterprise Rent-A-Car, Portland General Electric and the African American Chamber of Commerce.

## Project Homeless Connect

continued ▲ from Front

for the event includes American Medical Response, Cascade Aids Project, Central City Concern, Cingular Wireless, Coalition of Community Health Clinics,

Community Cycling Center, Health Reserve Corps, Housing Authority of Portland, Kaiser Permanente, Mercy and Wisdom Acupuncture, Mercy Corps Northwest, Native American Rehabilitation Association, New Seasons Markets, Northwest Medical Teams, Northwest Pilot Project, NW

Natural, Oregon Food Bank, OHSU, Oregon Law Center, Outside In, Pacific University College of Optometry, Portland Oregon Visitors Association, Providence Health Systems, Transition Projects Incorporated, Tri-Met, U.S. Interagency Commission on Homelessness, Veterans' Administration, Wallace Medical Concern, and West Burnside Chiropractic Care

A second Project Homeless Connect event focused on homeless families and their unique needs will occur in the spring.

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