



PHOTO BY ISAIAH BOUIE/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Congratulations Shawnty

Shawnty Eaden of north Portland gets the chance of her life to be apart of Mo'Niques Fabulous and Thick big girl competition. Shawnty is the only woman from the Northwest out of 10 finalists vying for \$50,000 and a contract. The FAT chance competition is being held in Los Angeles and will be televised in July on the Oxygen TV network.



PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Thousands of Americans, Mexicans and Central Americans gather in downtown Portland Monday, joining a nationwide rally in support of immigration rights.

▲ see related story on front, inside

The Tax Man Cometh

continued ▲ from Front

a filing penalty ensure you've paid as much as possible and file an extension.

For filers expecting a refund this year, it's still a good idea to file on time because the IRS may consider amended returns late.

Portland tax specialist and blogger Kathy Howell answers key tax questions, and she recommends visiting IRS.gov for a list of software companies they don't necessarily endorse, but approve. You can also find free filing information at www.irs.gov.

Matthews said commercial tax preparation software is useful, but

they can't answer every possible question.

"They help with accuracy because the biggest problem is if you put bad information in, you'll get a bad tax return," he said.

COUNTY

The Multnomah County income I-Tax expires this year, having funded public schools and other services since residents approved the income tax three years ago. Taxpayers can find out how much they owe by visiting www.multcotax.gov.

I-Tax manager Satish Nath said the county identified about 30,000 residents who didn't pay in 2003. Individuals who didn't respond to

collection attempts were sent to the county attorney's office.

Nath said they don't have 2004 information available yet, however since the county is in the process of closing down I-Tax operations, they will begin sending collection letters six months early this year, starting in June.

If you're wondering how well the I-Tax did spending your hard-earned dollars, the School Efficiency and Quality Advisory Council (formed when the tax was approved) issued a report saying the tax has met its goals. To view all reports and a breakdown of individual schools, visit www.seacinfo.org

Dear Deanna!

I'm sick and tired of men disrespecting me because of my wardrobe. If I want to dress sexy and wear 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.

Dear Deanna!

I made myself get out of an abusive relationship. I was beaten, verbally abused, raped and tormented on a daily basis for almost three years. I had convinced myself that I loved this man and his abuse was his way of showing affection. I'm at a point now where I feel as if

Ask Deanna!



Real People, Real Advice
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writing's on the wall—just make sure you read it.

Dear Deanna!

What do you do when your husband gets fat and out of shape? When we were married, he was in shape; he would go to the gym and kept things together. Now he's comfortable and has gained a lot of weight. It turns me off so bad that I can't be intimate. This is causing us to argue a lot and he tells me that I have to take him as he is because he's not changing. What can I do about this? --Lorraine; Jacksonville, Fla.

Dear Lorraine:

If you're responsible for the cooking, then perhaps you can transition to a healthier lifestyle. The key to supporting your husband's weight loss is encouragement instead of criticism. Highlight the health benefits and let him know that you're with him every step of the way. If no, I suggest you eat some snacks, put some junk in your trunk and be fat and happy together.

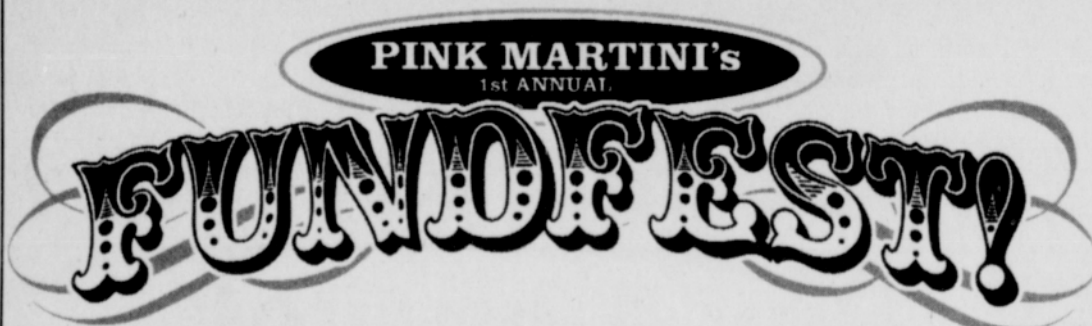
Ask Deanna is written by Deanna M. Write Ask Deanna! Email: askdeanna1@yahoo.com or 264 S. LaCienega Blvd, Suite 1283 Beverly Hills, CA 90211. Website: www.askdeanna.com

Dear Rebecca:

If you go back, be sure you have your funeral arrangements in order or get ready for a life of misery. This man treats you worse than a dog and has no respect, care or love for you. If you made it out of the situation, then you need to use your brains and stay out. No, you shouldn't give him another chance to assault you, insult your womanhood or risk killing you. The



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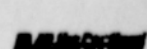
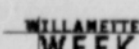
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