

Dear Deanna!

I've started a new job and my boyfriend won't stop calling me all the time. I've explained to him that my new boss is strict and all the calls are monitored. I need this job and I am not willing to lose it over him. I've been written up twice, we are now arguing at home, and he calls me more at work and it's becoming stressful. I thought this was the man for me, but now that I see he will jeopardize my job and livelihood, I'm not sure. Is there anything I can do in this situation? --Angel; Boston



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

Dear Angel:

If we do some math I would certainly say that only one person in this relationship has a job and that's you. There's no other reason your boyfriend can call you all day at work unless he doesn't have a job or a life. He's making a strong statement of disrespect because any man that will put your job at risk is a man that only cares about himself. You have a choice in this matter. Lose the man or the job, and, unless you want to go hungry, the decision is easy.

Dear Deanna!

My ex-girlfriend seems to wear a sign on her forehead that says all of her ex-boyfriends need to be in her face. I was cool with this at first because I'm a secure man. Now she's taking things too far and wants to socialize with these

men behind my back. Things were fine until she started keeping secrets from me. I'm convinced that if things were on the up-and-up she wouldn't have secrets but she won't see it my way nor stop this behavior. Am I right or wrong? --Justin; On-Line Reader

Dear Justin:

You were foolish to begin this relationship with the ex-lovers in the picture. Your girlfriend isn't taking your relationship serious and she's going to do what she wants and with whomever. Regardless of what you say, she's going to do her thing, so you should stop trying. If she's keeping secrets about other men, she'll lie and have secrets about everything else. You should save yourself the stress and call it quits and keep it moving.

Dear Deanna!

A few months ago, I loaned a friend some money. It wasn't a lot and I was prepared to count it as a loss if I wasn't repaid. The problem began when she borrowed more money and promised to pay it back by a certain date. I loaned her money a third time and she signed a promissory note. Now the money is significant and she's moved, stopped taking my calls and has a new car. Do I have any options to recover my money or do I just move on? --Katina; Dallas

Dear Katina:

You should bang your head against the wall a few times for being so stupid. You helped put wings on your money when you gave her more loans. If this is your friend you could see she was broke to begin with and more so when she started asking you for money. You played yourself on this one and your friend knew she could get away with it. Depending upon the amount, you may be able to go to small-claims court with the signed document, but don't hold your breath.

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

Support for Clinton, Obama at a Draw

Poll gauges opinions of African Americans

Just weeks ahead of the first primaries and caucuses, Hillary Clinton is the candidate viewed most favorably by likely African-American voters — with Barack Obama running a close second — according to new national survey by the Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies.

With a full year remaining to the general election, the survey found a high level of engagement in the political process among African Americans. Eighty percent of respondents said they are closely following news coverage of their party's candidates, while 87 percent said they planned to participate in the nominating process of the Democratic Party.

In the survey of 750 African Americans, sponsored by the AARP and conducted from October 5 to Nov. 2, Sen. Clinton was rated favorably by 83 percent of respondents, with 9.7 percent viewing her negatively. Sen. Obama received favorable ratings from 74.4 percent, with 10.1 percent viewing him negatively.

Of the eight candidates — four Democrats and four Republicans — whose names were presented to survey participants, only Clinton, Obama and former senator John Edwards were rated more favorably than not by likely black voters. Edwards was rated favorably by 45.1 percent, while 19.1 percent rated him unfavorably.

Former New York City mayor Rudolph Giuliani was the best known of the Republican candidates to black voters, but was viewed unfavorably by 42.7 percent of respondents, compared to 27.1 percent who viewed him favorably.

When asked to name the single most important problem facing the country, the No. 1 answer was the war in Iraq, which was cited by 28 percent of respondents, followed by health care (20 percent), jobs and the economy (15 percent) and education (10 percent). None of the black voters polled

identified taxes as the most important national problem; less than one percent named immigration and two percent said terrorism.

"What might be called signature issues of the Republican Party — taxes, terrorism, immigration and moral values — are just not resonating with African-American voters," said David Bositis, senior research associate at the Joint Center. "Not only are African Americans not raising these issues when given the chance, but when pressed on

cent) and, by a narrower margin, on dealing with Iraq (35.4 percent to 22.1 percent).

The survey also showed a significant gender gap in Sen. Clinton's support among African Americans, with 86 percent of women giving her a favorable rating and seven percent unfavorable, compared to a 78 percent favorable and 15 percent unfavorable rating by men. With regard to Sen. Obama, there was no significant gender difference in his favorable/unfavorable ratings.

Only 11 percent of African Americans surveyed believe that President Bush is doing a good or excellent job, while a clear majority (57.9 percent) gave him the lowest rating of "poor." Likely primary voters were also negative on the job Congress is doing, although the group giving Congress the lowest rating was only half the size of those giving that rating to President Bush.

"From the Joint Center's perspective, these poll results tell us that, even at this early date, African Americans are paying close attention to the presidential campaigns and the positions of the candidates," said Ralph B. Everett, the Joint Center's President and CEO. "And with two-thirds of respondents saying they are extremely likely to participate in the upcoming primaries and caucuses, it is apparent that blacks are focused on change and on having a say in who implements that change



Sen. Hillary Clinton



Sen. Barack Obama

By a two-to-one margin, respondents said that "commitment to change" was a more important feature in a candidate than "experience in public office" — a view that could be seen as helpful to Sen. Obama's candidacy.

which party has the better approach to them, they are clearly favoring the Democrats."

Bositis noted that the poll results offer further insight into how African Americans view their two favorite candidates, senators Clinton and Obama.

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and how."

"AARP is proud to sponsor the important work of the Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies. On behalf of our 2.1 million African-American members, AARP believes it is essential that the concerns and views of black voters be understood and heard by our nation's leaders," said Nancy LeaMond, AARP's Group Executive Office for Social Impact.

The survey results are based on telephone interviews with 750 randomly selected African Americans who indicated that they would participate in the nominating process for the 2008 presidential election, with a statistical margin of error of plus or minus 3.7 percent.

Passion for Community Earns Accolade

continued from Front

for 2008 by the largest circulation publications in the country, AARP the Magazine. Her company in the national spotlight includes folks like Caroline Kennedy and Helen Thomas.

The magazine determined that Hill's work to revitalize her neighborhood ultimately helped ensure financial and health security, and livable communities — a core mission of AARP's concentration on the success of senior citizens.

Hill's status as an "Urban Blight Fighter" and "Queen of Alberta" introduces her profile in the magazine's January/February 2008 issue.

The article goes on to discuss how the interior and landscape designer went to a tax-lien sale in 1992 and bought a derelict building on the long-neglected street. Most of her friends called her crazy while

she borrowed most of the \$26,000 purchase price and spent a year rehabbing the space with her own sweat and money—even selling her house to help pay the costs.

When Hill couldn't find a tenant, she decided to open a coffeehouse with a gallery inside for works by

finding commercial tenants who would live by her rules: They could not lock their doors during business hours, which had to be posted, and they had to buy glass-breakage insurance.

Calling this first project "just the start," AARP's magazine notes

The magazine determined that Hill's work to revitalize her neighborhood ultimately helped ensure financial and health security, and livable communities.

artists of color. Cobbling together more money to buy the properties on either side, she then razed everything in order to build anew, with commercial units on the ground floor, residential lofts above, extensive landscaping and all-night outdoor lighting.

This time she had no trouble

how over the next several years Hill bought more property along the 30-block-long section of Northeast Alberta Street, "rehabbing or rebuilding, mixing commercial space with residential and, in the process, sparking a renaissance that turned the virtually treeless asphalt jungle into a trendy area."

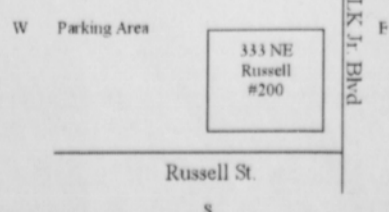
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