

Dear Deanna!

When does an ex-boyfriend have the right to disrespect an old flame? My boyfriend and I split because we weren't compatible. I thought we were on the same page until he started putting my business in the street. He's talking about my credit problems, family drama and he hurt me the most by telling his friends about my medical hygiene problems. I feel I'm doing the right thing by ignoring him. --Elaine; Los Angeles

Dear Elaine:

Any man, whether married, single, dating or divorced that puts his woman on blast and tells her business after a break-up is a punk. It's worse if they have children because he's disrespecting the woman and his kids. You're doing the right thing by giving him a deaf ear. Now you're able to see more about his character that led you to break up in the first place. Keep holding your head high because in the end, he'll still look like a fool.

Dear Deanna!

I want to share with the readers my secret to a good relationship. My husband and I get along just fine because I stay in my place, respect him as a man, and provide my womanly duties of cooking and cleaning. I don't have to worry about him cheating



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

and we settle our problems by talking. Hopefully some of your readers can benefit from this tidbit. --Terri Thomas; Dover, Del.

Dear Terri:

Congratulations Miss Cleaver on your relationship that's perfectly in order. Indeed, two people in a relationship have roles that must be fulfilled. However, what works for you may not work for others because people and their expecta-

tations are different. Thanks for sharing and continued success to the both of you.

Dear Deanna!

You know what bothers me? When I'm in public spending my money somewhere, it annoys me when there's a loudmouth arguing on a cell phone. To make matters worse, managers at restaurants and stores are too scared to address the problem and the rest of the customers have to suffer. Other than assault, what is a conservative way to deal with this problem? --Rebecca; Houston; Texas

Dear Rebecca:

Sounds like you're just as scared as the managers to address the problem because you didn't do anything either. Anyway, why not say excuse me and ask the annoying person to leave. If you're not that bold and it bothers you so much, contact the manager. Then again, two can play that game and you can become a nuisance too by picking up your phone and talk just as loud. You know, this is not rocket science, look over them and keep it moving.

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

Election Ballots on Way

Voters in Washington and Oregon are scheduled to receive vote-by-mail General Election ballots on Saturday or next Monday.

In Washington, the ballots must be postmarked by Nov. 4 in order to count. But in Oregon, postmarks do not count. The ballots must be received at any county election office by 8 p.m. on Nov. 4. Oregon voters are encouraged to mail their ballots at least two or three days before the elec-

tion in order to reach their destination.

Election officials in Washington are predicting an 83 percent voter turnout, the best showing for a general election in more than six decades.

Secretary of State Sam Reed said Monday that the turnout number is based on the high level of interest in the presidential and governor's races and ballot measures, as well as the recent surge in voter registrations.

Jobless Claims up 46 Percent

(AP) — Oregon claims for unemployment insurance benefits rose 46 percent in third quarter of 2008 from the third quarter of 2007. From July to September in 2008, more than 103,000 initial claims for unemployment benefits were filed.

More than 54,000 Oregonians get unemployment insurance benefits but more than 1,000 are exhausting their initial 26-week claim each week.

The Federal government initiated a program in July to provide an addi-

tional 13 weeks of benefits for those who qualify. The program ends in March.

Should Oregon experience three consecutive months of unemployment rates averaging 6.5 percent, the state would trigger the Extended Benefits program, which also provides up to 13 weeks of benefits for those who have exhausted their original claim. The unemployment rate was 6.5 percent in August and 6.4 percent in September.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO BUILD YOUR SMALL CONSTRUCTION BUSINESS?



The City of Portland is Re-opening the application period for the Construction Sheltered Market Program. Certified Minority, Women and Emerging Small Businesses (M/W/ESB) in business for two years or more may apply for the program. Program participants will have opportunities to bid on City of Portland construction projects, and can receive free technical assistance to improve their business management skills.

The following areas of work will be open for applications from Wednesday, October 1 to Friday, October 17

- | | |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Street Improvements | Sewerage treatment lines |
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| Reinforced concrete construction | Structural Demolition |
| Excavation | Plumbing |

For more information, contact:
Gene Jackson, Program Coordinator
(503) 823-9166, Eugene.jackson@ci.portland.or.us



Church Leaders Oppose Measures

continued from Front

Families against Mandatory Minimums reports that African Americans account for 13 percent of the general population, yet in 2003 they comprised 27 percent of those receiving federal mandatory drug sentences. Hispanics constituted 12.5 percent of the general population but received 43 percent of the drug mandatory sentences.

In a city such as Portland, with documented racial-profiling problems, it is likely that the additional mandatory-sentencing laws would only further the imbalance.

Measures 57 and 61 add length to existing sentences and add new (nonviolent) crimes to the list, so will tax the system further.

As females are more likely to commit the nonviolent crimes to be added to the mandatory-sentencing list, these measures will also impact the state's foster care system—and the prison system again down the road, as research

shows that children of incarcerated women are five times as likely to be incarcerated as their peers.

The children of drug offenders would benefit much more from their mothers' receiving drug counseling than they would having their mothers imprisoned, argue opponents of the measures.

Karen Nibler of the League of Women Voters of Oregon says they favor Measure 57 because of its drug treatment program and lower cost.

Nibler says Measure 61 "would add 4,000 to 6,000 non-violent inmates to the prison system by 2012.

"It would require millions of dollars in added prison operation costs and take funds from other state programs," she said. "It would not require substance abuse treatment and does not estimate the costs of additional prison construction."

Studies show that lowering unemployment rates and increasing wages and numbers of law-enforcement officers affect crime

rates much more than incarceration does. When it comes to non-violent criminals, systems such as electronic monitoring, community supervision and mandatory drug counseling have also been proven cheaper and more effective.

Alternative punishments also enable inmates to return to their communities sooner and make contributions such as taxes and child-support payments.

Measures 57 and 61 both eliminate the possibility of using cheaper, better systems to rehabilitate criminals, and do not provide a way to pay for the imprisonment of more people.

The measures are estimated to cost between \$411 million to \$797 million in prison operations over the next four years, plus another \$314 million to \$1.3 billion dollars in prison construction debt.

Opponents say the money would do nothing to correct racial bias in the justice system, fix broken families or lower long-term crime rates, but instead add to pre-existing problems.

Couple Makes a Difference

continued from Front

school youth at Northeast Community Fellowship Foursquare Church and for the Portland Rescue Mission Life Change Program.

Thomas has 18 years experi-

ence working in education, social services and non-profit and corporate management. She has developed programs for minority youth and encouraged minority students to pursue careers in health care at Oregon Health Sciences University.

New Decision's primary focus is providing social support for at-risk children and their families to break the cycle of chronic re-offending. The agency offers culturally-based services that are effective and efficient for getting kids on the right track.

Mental health and drug and alcohol assessments and the therapy needed to improve behavior are coordinated into a youth's treatment program when needed. Advocacy for special education needs and academic tutoring are other services available.

The mission is to provide a safe and positive environment in which children of color are empowered to make healthy, life-changing decisions.

Thomas and Johnson are proud of their record. Their agency has contracted with Multnomah County, primarily working with high risk, difficult to place African-American males. It has provided both short and long-term care, receiving referrals through the Gang Resource and Intervention Team in northeast Portland.

Prior to licensing, Johnson and Thomas maintained an exclusive home for adjudicated males where they served over 40 youth over the course of three years.

Today one of the primary goals is to recruit and train new foster parents of color.

"We need more good families," Johnson said.

A faith-based grounding also gives the couple strength to succeed.

The "Kids are our ministry," Thomas said.

For information about New Decision Treatment Foster Care, email Cynthia@newdecisionfc.com or visit newdecisionfc.com.

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