



ASK DEANNA!
*Real People,
Real Advice*

Ask Deanna! Is 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, NV

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?

Michelle
Atlanta, GA

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.

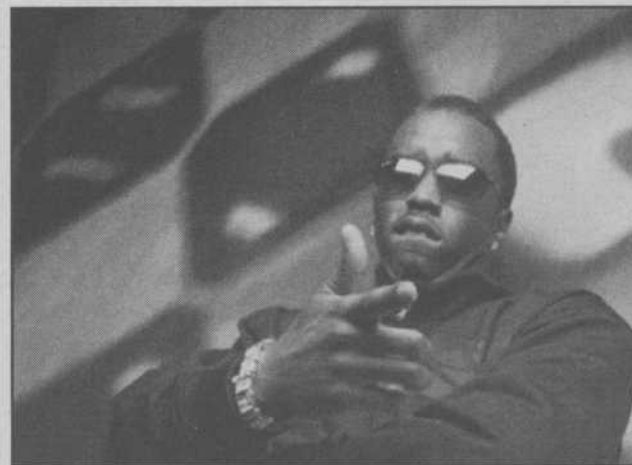
Ask Deanna! is written by Deanna M. Write: Ask Deanna! Email: askdeanna1@yahoo.com or 264 S. LaCienega Blvd. Suite 1283 Beverly Hills, CA 90211 Website: www.askdeanna.com

Court affirms ruling in Diddy attack

LANSING, Mich. - A Wayne County judge should have allowed a jury to hear evidence of a recorded telephone conversation in an assault trial involving rap star Diddy's entourage, but the Michigan Court of Appeals ruled the error was harmless.

The appellate court issued a unanimous opinion Friday that affirms a judgment in favor of Sean Combs' record label and bodyguard. The hip-hop mogul was known as P. Diddy until recently and also has gone by Puff Daddy and Puffy.

TV talk-show host Roger Mills sued the rapper, his label Bad Boy Entertainment, bodyguard Ron Gilyard and Detroit radio station WCHB-



Rap mogul Sean Combs now goes by the moniker, Diddy.

FM in 2001, alleging he was attacked after a 1999 interview with Combs.

Mills said Combs abruptly ended the interview when asked to comment about allegations that he con-

tributed to the shooting death of fellow rapper Notorious B.I.G.

Mills said members of Combs' entourage roughed him up and stole the tape of the interview, breaking a

camera in the process.

A Wayne County jury ruled in favor of Combs and others in 2004, finding no assault and battery ever occurred. Mills appealed.

The appeals court said a recorded telephone conversation between Gilyard and Mills — in which the bodyguard said Combs directed him to "get the tape" — should have been allowed as evidence. But the court ruled the error was harmless, saying the tape didn't establish the rapper gave any instruction to the bodyguard nor did it show Combs authorized an assault.

Judges Brian Zahra, Mark Cavanagh and Donald Owens issued the 3-0 ruling.

Cheadle boosts involvement in African aid

LOS ANGELES - With "Hotel Rwanda," the horrific movie set against the background of genocide, now faded from the headlines, actor Don Cheadle is boosting his personal campaign to end war and famine in Africa.

The Oscar-nominated actor has launched "Live For Darfur," a series of events in which celebrities from rock band U2 to Nobel Laureate Elie Wiesel dedicate their work toward raising awareness about refugees in the Darfur region of Sudan.

In September, Cheadle will attend Save Darfur Coalition's "National Day of Action" in Washington, to address the death and disease plaguing Darfur.

On the same day, he will participate in a National Leadership Assembly for groups to brief Save Darfur members and others on Sudanese issues.

But in an interview on Wednesday, Cheadle called the single events a "raindrop approach" and hinted at a torrent of more cohesive actions to come aimed at reaching a wider spectrum of people.

"That strategy hasn't been completely put together... but we are working toward that," he said.

Cheadle earned wide acclaim last year for "Hotel Rwanda," in which he portrayed a hotel manager who saved the lives of some 1,200 refugees during the civil war in Rwanda that began in 1994.

More than just a movie role, Cheadle's work in "Hotel Rwanda" led him to become an activist for boosting aid to African nations whose people have been ravaged by

starvation, drought and war.

Last year, the Bush Administration declared genocide was taking place in Sudan and called on world intervention. Since then, a long-running civil war has formally ended, but separate fighting in continues in Darfur, where more than 2 million people have been left

homeless.

"The problems are very nuanced and complex... we are in dire need of leadership from our government if we are going to see any change," said Cheadle, who has traveled to Africa three times in recent months. He knows people tire of celebrities promoting causes and Ameri-

cans are reticent about intervention in Africa, but Cheadle argues that American involvement is needed to prevent impoverished nations from becoming hotbeds of terrorism and disease. "It will have a direct impact on our citizens down the line. You can't just throw away an entire continent," he said.



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