



ASK DEANNA!
*Real People,
Real Advice*

Ask Deanna! Is an advice column known for its fearless approach to reality-based subjects!

Dear Deanna!

My husband's old affair is tearing me apart. First we had one child and then another one before we got married. I later learned he had an affair with a woman that stroked his ego during my first pregnancy. He claims it was one time, but the way she stalked him, harassed us and bothered us for a few years made me doubt it. He confessed when the phone calls started and but I still can't get the affair out of my mind when I look at him.

Anonymous
Online Reader

Dear Anonymous:

You set yourself up for drama by getting pregnant without the wedding-ring in the first place. You can't lay too much blame on his actions because he wasn't officially your man. If this is in the past, you need to leave it there. Unless he's doing something that's current then get over it. You're causing yourself pain and agony from an old wound. Seek professional or spiritual counseling to get to the root of your pain, squash it and keep it moving.

Dear Deanna!

I'm in prison responding to advice you gave a lonely inmate. With a few years left of his sentence you told him to focus on getting a degree instead of worrying about a woman on the outside. I feel you're wrong. You also didn't tell him what kind of degree he needs. He needs a woman because it's lonely in prison and companionship will help his time pass faster and keep him mentally stable.

Anonymous Inmate
Soledad, CA

Dear Inmate:

He had the chance to build a relationship and grow a family when he was free but lost that chance when he committed a crime. Regardless of the major, an educated ex-con will find employment faster than one with no books on the brain. A woman will love you like Luther Vandross behind the ink pen, but when it gets serious, she'll start singing no romance without finance and you gotta have a J-O-B to be with me.

Dear Deanna!

I saw my pastor shopping with the church checkbook. I could see the church logo, name and everything on the outside cover. A clerk was trying to refuse the check because it was a business check and required signatures. My pastor pulled rank and said he was authorized. Then he signed two signatures, winked at me and told me to turn the other cheek. What do I do about this?

Sylvia
St. Louis, MO

Dear Sylvia:

You sure that wasn't Jim Baker? Your pastor is a thief setting a bad example for the congregation. The pastor knew this was wrong especially if he advised you to look the other way. What part of Exodus 20 Verse 15 "Thou shall not steal" doesn't he understand? Pray for your pastor and God's guidance as you report this to the church governing board. Telling is not between you and man, but you and your dedication to God and protecting His house.

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Prince to get Webby award

NEW YORK (AP) - Prince will be honored with a lifetime achievement award at this year's Webby online awards for his use of the Internet to distribute music and connect with audiences.

In a statement Wednesday, Tiffany Shlain, founder of the awards, described Prince as a "musical genius" and "a visionary, who recognized early on that the Web would completely change how we experience music."

The 47-year-old pop superstar was the first major artist to release an entire album, 1997's "Crystal Ball," exclusively on the Web, according to the announcement, and "long before MySpace and iTunes, Prince used the Web as a new way to distribute music, premiere



Prince will receive an award for his use of the Internet.

videos and build his relationship with his fans."

His Web site, <http://www.npgmusicclub.com>, has more than seven full-length CDs of music unavailable elsewhere.

The awards ceremony will take place June 12 at Cipriani Wall Street in Manhattan. Rob Corddry of Comedy Central's "The Daily Show With Jon Stewart" will host the show.

Prince will be honored along with winners in 69 categories, as well as five other special-achievement recipients, including Thomas Friedman, a columnist for The New York Times; Gorillaz, a cartoon-fronted rock group; and the founders of the popular social networking site MySpace.com.

The awards, in their 10th year, are given by the International Academy of Digital Arts and Sciences, a group of more than 500 experts on the Internet and other specialties.

Winners and special-achievement honorees are limited to five-word acceptance speeches. Lifetime achievement recipient Al Gore drew laughs and headlines last year with "Please don't recount this vote."

Rappers win in copyright case

NEW YORK (AP) - Top-selling rappers Kanye West and Ludacris won a copyright infringement trial Thursday when a jury concluded their 2003 hit "Stand Up" did not copy a tune by New Jersey musicians.

"I hope the plaintiffs enjoyed their 15 minutes of fame," Ludacris said after the verdict was announced. "This whole experience is proof to me of why I will always fight for what I believe in."

Ten jurors returned the verdict after less than a day of deliberations in the two-week trial in U.S. District Court in Manhattan.

West was not in court. Outside the courthouse, Ludacris signed autographs and posed for pictures before leaving for Los Angeles to promote a documentary he narrated about a female basketball team in Seattle.

Ludacris said he never doubted the jury would agree that the song he and West created did not sound like "Straight Like That," a tune created by an East Orange, N.J., group named I.O.F., or It's Only Family.

"The only thoughts and ideas I borrow from are those of my own," Ludacris said.

"Straight Like That" never made it beyond some air time on college radio after copies of it were released in September 2001. "Stand Up" was released in the fall of 2003 on Ludacris' album "Chicken and Beer" and became a huge hit.

At issue at trial were the words "like that," repeated more than 80 times in each

song, though one song precedes the phrase with "straight" while the other precedes it with "just."

Jeff Billingsley, a plaintiff and owner of Cobble One Records, of Newark, N.J., said the verdict will be appealed.

He said the plaintiffs were damaged when the judge excluded their music expert from testifying as part of sanctions taken against a lawyer who was dismissed from the case before trial.

Mel Sachs, the lawyer who argued the case for the plaintiffs, said the issue provides the group with a stronger case on appeal.

"We were at a severe disadvantage," he said.

Sachs said the verdict was disappointing but understandable since the plaintiffs could not present their expert.

Ludacris, whose real name is Chris Bridges, has been praised for his music and his acting roles in the Oscar-winning "Crash" and "Hustle and Flow."

West has won six Grammy Awards for his two multiplatinum albums, "The College Dropout" and "Late Registration." He is known for his outspoken nature, including when he said President Bush "doesn't care

about Black people" during a telethon for Hurricane Katrina victims.

When West testified last week, he said he had sympathy for the New Jersey group.

"It's like that glimmer of hope. You're this close," he said. "I've been in those shoes. It's hard to make it in this game. I understand why they would sue."

Ludacris, though, said after the verdict that he saw one of the plaintiffs fall asleep during the trial and was thinking he was not going to let someone like that "ruin my reputation."

"I feel no sympathy," he said, "not at all."



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