



ASK DEANNA!
*Real People,
Real Advice*

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

Dear Deanna!

My sister has been a single parent for the past twelve years. I'm worried because she's now dating but not managing her household. My niece and nephew have turned into rude, smart-mouthed children and in need of discipline. I've had arguments because I think my sister is choosing a man over her responsibilities. There is no food in the house, her bills are late and the children still haven't met her boyfriend. Am I wrong to get in the middle of this?

Cecilia
Tampa, FL

Dear Cecilia:

It's okay to provide support to your sister and her kids but focus on their health and welfare first and your sister's relationship second. These kids didn't become misbehaved overnight and now that a man's in the picture, your sister's lifestyle is more noticeable. Unless there's commitment on the horizon, there's no urgency for the kids to meet their mom's boyfriend. You're respectfully doing the right thing with good intentions and can provide solutions.

Dear Deanna!

I disagree with teen dating and feel kids shouldn't have dates until they finish high school. All of the young teens in our family are dating and they are all a mess. The girls are going through stress, crying and wearing a lot of make-up. The boys want to be thugs and are going through many girls for the notches on their belt. I'm viewed as the old maid in the family but my children are stress free because I don't let them date. When is the right age to begin dating?

Anonymous
San Bernardino, CA

Dear Anonymous:

With a good foundation teens can successfully have friends of the opposite sex. Regardless of the word dating or relationship, the younger generation needs to learn bonding and social skills as they interact with each other. Juniors and seniors do well with dating because their life skills are becoming sharp and defined. There is no set age, but you need to loosen your strings because when your kids get out there, they may get wild and cause you heartbreak.

Dear Deanna!

I gave my bankcard to my son's mother for an emergency with an amount of money she can withdraw and then give my card back. Instead of obeying, she emptied my account and refused my phone calls for 2 weeks. Now she's mad because she tried to sue for child support and the dollar amount is less than what I've been giving her. I can't trust her and plan to help with my son, but it's not my fault she'll get less money now. Should I feel guilty about this?

M.J. Clark
Charlotte, NC

Dear M.J.:

You've played by the rules and there's nothing more you can do but be the best father you can. The child's mother got what she deserved because she stole money from you which goes against God's commandment: Thou Shalt Not Steal. Karma has a way of swinging back and trying to be cute with child support is a game that doesn't need to be played. Consider this a lesson learned and if your child needs money or anything else, do it yourself

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.

Oprah fetes Black school

GREENSBORO, N.C. (AP) - Oprah Winfrey headlined a fundraiser at a private college for Black women, encouraging about 300 guests to support education and give back to their community.

"You can't continue to move forward unless you give back what you are given," Winfrey said Friday. "It is our calling."

The famed talk-show host spoke at Bennett College,

which is in the midst of a \$50 million fundraising campaign co-chaired by poet and novelist Maya Angelou, a close friend of Winfrey, and former Republican Sen. Bob Dole of Kansas.

Angelou, who sits on the school's board of trustees, and gospel singer Shirley Caesar, a native of Durham, also attended the gala.

Winfrey said she limits her speaking engagements to

events that "really matter" and decided to visit the central North Carolina school because "Bennett really matters."

"It is important that this institution continues to thrive," Winfrey said, "and offer opportunities for women in this country and around the world."

She spoke about the importance of education, touting the college's renewal, and

about the leadership academy she founded for girls in South Africa. The gala was part of college president Johnnetta Cole's plans to leave office after five years with the school on a firm financial footing.

Bennett was running a \$2 million budget deficit and was on academic probation when Cole, the former president of Atlanta's Spelman College, took over in 2002.

Emcee, politician talk music

LONDON (AP) - The head of a Conservative Party trying to shed its image as aging and out of touch met last Thursday with an American rapper who performed for the Tory leader and invited him out to a club.

Rhymefest, a Grammy-winning hip-hop performer from Chicago, met with David Cameron in the party's House of Commons office to discuss violent rap lyrics.

The performer, whose real name is Che Smith, said afterwards that he wouldn't stop using violent imagery in his music because it reflects the realities of life in his home city.

Cameron "told me he wasn't saying to ban hip-hop, he was saying balance hip-hop, and I agree with him," said the musician. "I don't care about no Conservatives, I don't know about that, but

I agree our music needs balance. It ain't only being said by him, it's being said by people in the ghetto too."

Cameron, 40, took charge of the long-ailing Conservative Party in December vowing to overhaul it after three straight election defeats at the hands of Prime Minister Tony Blair's Labor Party. He has sought to change the party's image by pulling it to the political center and focus-

ing on issues like poverty and the environment, which hadn't been high on its agenda before but are seen as important to young people.

Meeting with Rhymefest, who won a Grammy Award for co-writing the hit "Jesus Walks" with Kanye West in 2004, was a publicity coup for Cameron, whose efforts have brought the party a surge in the polls.

Rhymefest said he had asked Cameron to join him at a nightclub last week, and "he said he would come. ... You know politicians, they'd say anything to get you out of the office."

Cameron's office said later he couldn't go clubbing with Rhymefest because he was too busy.

Fabulous free on costly bail

NEW YORK (AP) - Rapper Fabolous, accused of possessing two loaded handguns after being shot in the thigh, walked out of a courthouse last Wednesday after a member of his entourage posted \$15,000 cash bail.

The 28-year-old Brooklyn rapper, whose legal name is John Jackson, was arraigned on five counts of criminal possession of a weapon before his associate opened an aluminum attaché case and plunked down 15 piles of \$1,000 each, all still in their bank wrappers.

Fabulous, known for hits "Breathe" and "Can't Deny It," was arrested after he was treated for a gunshot wound in his right thigh early last Tuesday outside Justin's, a soul food restaurant and club owned by rap mogul Sean "Diddy" Combs.

Boston Celtics point guard Sebastian Telfair, who also was at the restaurant, told police that someone snatched a \$50,000 chain from his neck. Suspecting that the rapper's entourage might have been involved, detectives had Telfair view police lineups with the men, but he failed to identify any of them.

"We're investigating whether there's a connection between the reported robbery and the shooting," New York Police Department spokesman Paul Browne said.

The rapper's defense at-

torney, Alberto Ebanks, suggested that Telfair, who came out of Coney Island to become a first-round NBA draft pick, and Fabolous were victims of assailants targeting the club's high-profile clien-

tele.

"These were people preying on celebrities, and my client was obviously targeted because he is a high-profile celebrity and platinum-selling artist," Ebanks said.

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