



ASK DEANNA!
*Real People,
Real Advice*

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

Dear Deanna!

My fiancé and I parted ways earlier this year. After separation, we realized we want to be together and started the relationship again. I stayed faithful and wasn't with anyone but he had several intimate flings. I'm having second thoughts because he refuses to have an HIV test with me. He claims that I know his habits since we were together so long. I agree, but he was the one sleeping around. Am I wrong to refuse this relationship because of the HIV testing?

Anonymous
Dallas, TX

Dear Anonymous:

You have a responsibility to take care of yourself first. There's not that much love in the world to make you forsake your sexual health. You're entitled to refuse taking the relationship further if his sexual activity during the break-up bothers you. If he takes something as serious as an HIV so light, you need to think how he would handle major issues in the marriage. Set a deadline, stay firm in your request and if he doesn't comply, move on to other things until he agrees to testing.

Dear Deanna!

I've been dating my existing girlfriend for less than 3 months. I regret that I met her before the holidays because she feels we need to get into the spirit of gift giving. I can go along with this but I don't plan to purchase a digital camera, an I-pod or any other expensive items she wants. I've tried to have this discussion and tell her that I have a spending limit but she thinks I'm kidding. I'm sticking to my plans. How do I avoid an argument when she opens her gifts?

Tyrrell
Cincinnati, OH

Dear Tyrrell:

If you've communicated your intentions then you have nothing to worry about other than pouting. Your new girlfriend is still in the "getting to know you" phase and should see from the beginning that you are firm, consistent and a man of your word. If she's too materialistic or immature to see this, then you should start your New Year off as a single man. If she chooses to argue, then wish her a happy holiday and keep it moving.

Dear Deanna!

I'm in a holiday battle with my husband's previous family. His ex-wife feels he should be at her house at 7 in the morning to have breakfast and open gifts with the kids. I don't think so. My husband and I don't have children and I want him to spend the morning with me and then go to his kids. He and I are arguing and this is causing a major strain in our household. I'll never keep him from his kids but this is a bit much. Am I wrong to make this an issue?

Ms. L
Birmingham, AL

Dear Ms. L:

You're right to take a stand on this issue. No married man needs to be at nobody's house at this time of morning unless it's work related or an emergency. You should make the suggestion for him to arrive at 10:00 and if he misses breakfast and torn wrapping paper, they'll get over it. His ex-wife should plan the children's gift exchange with their father at a better time and offer brunch instead of breakfast. This should be fair and settle the issue for everyone.

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.

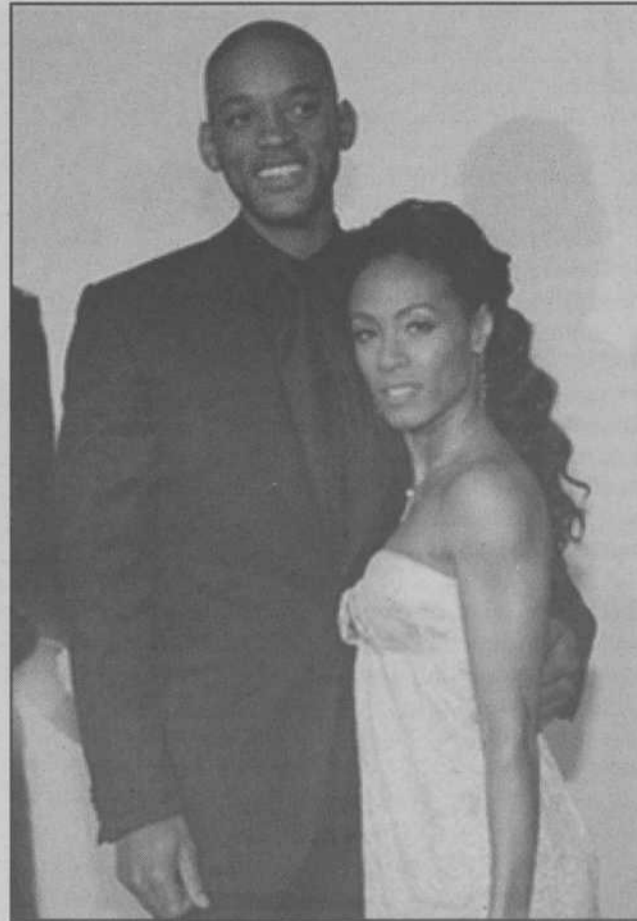
Jada gives \$1 million to arts school

BALTIMORE (AP)-Jada Pinkett Smith has donated \$1 million to her high school alma mater, the Baltimore School for the Arts, asking that its new theater be dedicated to classmate Tupac Shakur, who was shot and killed in 1996.

"It means a lot when you're a teacher and your most famous alumnus comes back to give a donation," said Donald Hicken, head of the school's theater department since its founding in 1980 and Pinkett Smith's former theater teacher. "It really says a lot to the community that the school matters in people's lives."

The donation from the Will and Jada Smith Family Foundation, which is based in Baltimore, will be used for renovation and expansion. The school, which announced the donation Monday, said it will name its new theater for Pinkett Smith.

Pinkett Smith, 35, is married to Will Smith, who stars



Actor Will Smith, left, and wife, actress Jada Pinkett Smith, attend the premiere of "Pursuit of Happyness" in LA earlier this month. She donated \$1 million to her high school.

in the new movie "The Pursuit of Happyness" with their 8-year-old son, Jaden.

The couple had previously given \$112,500 to the school.

When a \$30 million expansion program is finished in the fall of 2007, the school will increase its enrollment from 316 to 375 students.

Karen Banfield Evans, executive director of the Smith Family Foundation, and Pinkett Smith's aunt, said the actress was moved by the school's advances since she graduated.

Pinkett Smith wanted the theater named for Shakur because of the friendship they developed at the school.

The rapper died after a drive-by shooting in Las Vegas.

The actress has appeared in movies such as "Ali," which starred her husband, and "Collateral," and she was the voice of the hippo Gloria in the 2005 animated film "Madagascar."

Snipes: I did not commit fraud

(AP) - Wesley Snipes surrendered to authorities to face federal tax fraud charges and was released on \$1 million bond late last week, two months after he was indicted in central Florida.

The actor, known for films such as the "Blade" trilogy, didn't speak at a court appearance in Ocala.

He went there after arriving in Orlando on a private jet Friday from the African nation of Namibia, where he has been filming "Gallow Walker," his publicist said.

Snipes, 44, was charged in October with fraudulently claiming refunds totaling nearly \$12 million in 1996

and 1997 on income taxes already paid. He was also charged with failure to file returns from 1999 through 2004.

He will be allowed to return to Namibia to finish his film, but must return to his home in Marina del Rey, Calif., on or before Jan. 10, U.S. Magistrate Gary Jones ruled.

After that, he will be required to surrender his U.S. passport and will be restricted to traveling in the continental United States.

A Feb. 22 status conference was scheduled, which Snipes is not required to attend.

According to the indict-

ment, Snipes had his taxes prepared by accountants with a history of filing false returns to reap payments for their clients. The firm American Rights Litigators would receive 20 percent of refunds from clients, according to the indictment.

Snipes has said he is a scapegoat and was unfairly targeted by prosecutors. If

convicted, he faces up to 16 years in prison.

"Gallow Walker," a cowboy movie, will be completed next week and will be released sometime next fall, said Ian Thompson, spokesman for Sheer Films, which is producing the film. Snipes' arrest wasn't expected to delay production, Thompson said.



Actor Wesley Snipes (center) with his legal team in Florida. The star has pleaded not guilty to charges of tax fraud.

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