



ASK DEANNA!
*Real People,
Real Advice*

Ask Deanna! can be heard every Sunday on KTYM AM 1460 at 3:00pm in Los Angeles, CA.

Dear Deanna!

I met a guy who I thought was really interested in me. I helped him get employment at my company, helped with his bills and paid child support for him. As soon as things started looking up for him, our relationship changed. Things hit the fan when he got a promotion and moved into another department. He is now telling me that he's focused on improving his life instead of dating me. I heard that he's dating someone else in the company. What do I do?

Crying and Miserable
Online Reader

Dear Miserable:

You set yourself up by confusing help with being used and also giving up your money. You never should mix business with pleasure because it's a guaranteed recipe for pain. He used you to get ahead and you can see early on that he's leaving you behind. If you heard that he's dating someone on the job, it's probably true. You can't do anything other than move on, be glad that you got out early and pray for the new lady who will be his next sucker.

Dear Deanna!

My nephew has left for college and has completely lost his mind. When he lived at home he was quiet, mild mannered and well behaved. I hardly know him now that he's away from home. He's still underage but he drinks, has tattoos and has become loud and rude. My sister simply turns her head and says he's an adult and I should mind my business. Is this normal when kids go off to college or should I intervene and get him back on track?

Loving Aunt
San Bernardino, CA

Dear Loving Aunt:

You may be messing in business that doesn't belong to you. Your nephew is an adult and his parents don't have any issues with his lifestyle and maybe you should do the same. If he's still in college, getting good grades and staying out of trouble, then he's fine. You can't impose your expectations on him but you can caution him about the drinking and any moral issues. In other words, accept his newfound adult hood and be there with gentle guidance.

Dear Deanna!

I have a platonic relationship with a male friend of four years but my fiancé doesn't like it. He has begun making hints that I've slept with my friend and accusing me of lying to him. I've only known my fiancé for two years and if I had to choose between the two men, I would choose my friend. How can I convince my fiancé that we're only friends and that nothing is going on? This is becoming stressful because I love both men and want them in my life. Help?

Sharon
San Antonio, TX

Dear Sharon:

Your future husband is jealous of your relationship with your male friend. It's your responsibility to find balance as you seek to have both relationships. Invite your husband to be part of the friendship so he can understand and be more open minded. Also be mindful of your platonic friendship to make sure you're not giving your fiancé reasons to complain. If things don't improve after the air is clear, you fiancé has issues you certainly need to explore.

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Arabs cool to new Bush plan

CAIRO, Egypt (AP)—Arab leaders were deeply skeptical Wednesday of the U.S. plan for Iraq, a day after Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice tried to sell it to them. Kuwait's emir told Rice that America should work with Iran and Syria, officials said — a move President Bush has rejected.

Underscoring the obstacles to U.S. efforts to win over Arab leaders, a U.S. diplomat said the Bush administration plans to send Undersecretary of State for Political Affairs Nicholas Burns on another Mideast shuttle to offer more details of the president's plan.

Meeting with Rice on Tuesday in Kuwait, eight Arab foreign ministers raised tough questions about Bush's new strategy. The ministers — from six Persian Gulf states plus Egypt and Jordan — were particularly concerned about whether the Shiite-led government of Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki can reach out to Iraq's minority Sunni Arabs to end their resistance and lure them to the political process, according to Arab diplomats.

"Arabs need to know specifically what can the Americans and the Iraqis do to end sectarian domination of the government," said one diplomat familiar with Rice's talks, referring to the Iraqi Shiite-Kurdish alliance which controls the Baghdad government. He and other diplomats spoke on condition of anonymity because the discussions during the closed meeting were private.

A statement put out by the ministers reflected their distrust of al-Maliki's government. They gave vague support for Bush's plan, welcoming a U.S. commitment to defend "the territorial integrity of Iraq and to ensure a successful, fair and inclusive political process."

But they also said it is the "responsibility of the Iraqi government to achieve these goals."

The most upbeat comments came from Egypt.

"Bush's strategy is not merely a military action or operation or a unilateral military program. It represents a vision with different political, military and economic aspects," Foreign Minister Ahmed About Gheit told reporters in Cairo on Wednesday.

Still, Gheit said he underlined to Rice that U.S. and

Iraqi forces must crack down on Shiite militias that "have been killing Iraq's Sunnis."

During her five-day tour, Rice acknowledged concerns about whether the Iraqi government would take "an evenhanded, nonsectarian path" by targeting Shiite militiamen as well as Sunni insurgents and seek reconciliation.

Many Arab leaders feared it would not.

"The main objective now is how to achieve national reconciliation," said Ahmed al-Qatan, the Saudi ambassador to the Arab League. "Unfortunately, the deteriorating conditions cannot provide any hope."

"The situation won't stabilize soon, and the current curve (of violence) will continue for a long time," he told Cairo's leading newspaper, *Al-Ahram*.

Many in the media depicted Rice's visit as a failure. "The whole jet-setting trip turned out to be yet another stage-managed, futile diplomatic exercise. ... In effect, Rice returns to Washington empty-handed with a lot of false promises rather than optimism," the Doha, Qatar-based Peninsula newspaper

wrote in editorial.

Jordanian analyst Labib Kamhawi said that besides their doubts over the plan itself, Arab leaders had a difficult time throwing support behind it "when there has been a total failure in Iraq and the Palestinian territories with no attempt to soften the anger that is seething in the Arab and Muslim countries."

The emir of Kuwait was surprised that the Bush plan excludes Iran and Syria from contacts on Iraq. It is important to have a "dialogue with Syria, in particular, and with Iran in the interest of Gulf security in general," Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Sheik Mohammed Al Sabah quoted the emir as telling Rice.

Bush took a tough line on Syria and Iraq in announcing his plan. He accused them of supporting militants in Iraq and made clear his rejection of proposals for engaging the two countries to use their influence to calm the violence.

Saudi Arabia, meanwhile, is pressing the U.S. to take more active steps to revive the Arab-Israeli peace process in return for helping in stabilize Iraq. The deal, dubbed "Iraq for Land," ech-

oes widespread Arab feelings that resolution to the conflict is key to Mideast stability.

Saudi columnist Dawoud al-Shriyan said Rice should take the calls seriously.

"Every time the Americans are in trouble in Iraq, they remember that Arabs have a cause named Palestine. Therefore, they float some statements to create the impression that they continue their efforts in the peace process," he wrote in the Saudi-owned *Al-Hayat* newspaper.

Burns' mission to the region next week aims to mitigate Arabs worries.

"Everything (Rice) has been doing in the region, he's going to try to explain," said Hilary Olsin-Windecker, spokeswoman for the U.S. Embassy in Abu Dhabi, the Emirates capital. Burns will "flesh out specifics" of U.S. policy changes that Rice outlined, Olsin-Windecker said.

Burns also is expected to make a major policy address that details new U.S. steps in Iraq and the Gulf in hopes of finally persuading skeptical Gulf allies to support America's project in Iraq, said Mustafa Alani, who oversees military policy at the Gulf Research Center.

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