



**ASK DEANNA!**  
*Real People,  
Real Advice*

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

Dear Deanna!

For five years, I've been madly in love with a good friend. We've talked about having a relationship, but the timing was never good. Next thing you know, he married a girl who was pregnant because his family thought it was the mature thing to do. After a year, he got into trouble with her family, and now he's in jail for 7 years. We write and talk on the phone and he knows I love him. I respect his marriage, but my love is getting stronger. Should I express my feelings to him?

Very Confused  
Las Vegas, NV

Dear Confused:

Let's do the math. One man went half on a baby with someone else plus one wedding equals two and you're not in the equation. You're infatuated and want what you can't have. He wasn't interested when he was free because he married someone else. He's interested now because he's on lockdown. Remain as friends because he can't do nothing for you but tell you what you want to hear. Save yourself some heartbreak, because when he gets released, he's going to his wife and child, and you'll be crushed again.

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Dear Deanna!

I just learned that my husband may be the father of my five 5-year old nephew. I found out by accident. My husband was talking on the phone, laughing and joking and I heard him say that he thought my sister's son was his child but he never did a DNA test. I remember when we started dating he used to say he thought he left his ex-girlfriend pregnant. When my sister popped up pregnant, she said it was a one-night stand. How do I investigate this situation peacefully?

Worried Wife  
Columbus, OH

Dear Wife:

Regardless of the outcome, people are going to be hurt and trust among all parties destroyed. If you feel in your heart that it's worth it, get the process started with your husband first. Ask him if he dated your sister and if he's the possible father. Have the same discussion with your sister, and if they're on the same page, have a DNA test. The timing between his relationships is crucial but only time, faith and personal maturity can save your marriage and family relationships if this is true.

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Dear Deanna!

My father divorced my mother after 40 years of marriage. I have a problem with the fact his new girlfriend is young enough to be his daughter. I don't like it and I know she's only after his money. He has bought her fur coats, a car and gave her a credit card. He never did these things for my mother or me. Our relationship is suffering because he puts his girlfriend first and listens to everything she says. How do I open my father's eyes?

Lynn  
Taylorsville, NC

Dear Lynn:

You're in a lot of pain; but at the same time, you're very jealous and filled with envy. You're entitled to these feelings and would feel the same way about your father's girlfriend regardless of her age. Your father is enjoying his freedom, and experiencing a possible mid-life crisis. The young girl is a boost to his ego until she deflates it by leaving him. Be the good daughter that you are and support him and focus on making your personal relationship stronger because women will come and go, but you will always be his daughter.

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# Surprise cut on 'Idol' show

Is "American Idol" for real?

In a surprise, Stephanie Edwards — one of this season's best singers — was voted off the top-rated talent contest Wednesday, while weak and sometimes unwatchable performers Sanjaya Malakar and Haley Scarnato were allowed to stay.

The untimely departure of Edwards, 19, of Savannah, Ga., narrowed the number of "Idol" contestants to 10. The winner will be chosen in May.

Simon Cowell said on Tuesday's show that Edwards' rendition of Dusty Springfield's "You Don't Have to Say You Love Me" lacked the edginess and youthful energy that she brought to her previous performances.

Paula Abdul echoed that sentiment, telling Edwards she should have "more fun" onstage.

Dodging viewer elimination was Chris Richardson, who had the next-lowest vote



Stephanie Edwards, once seen as an "American Idol" favorite, was recently shelved.

tally in the competition.

Richardson, 22, of Chesapeake, Va., had impressed judges with his smooth take on "Don't Let the Sun Catch

You Crying." Cowell called it his "best performance so far," while Abdul praised him as "charming and sexy."

In its sixth season,

"American Idol" continues to dominate the ratings. It has attracted 26 million to 37 million viewers per telecast this season.

## TV star Washington gives loot

LOS ANGELES (AP) - Isaiah Washington, who traced his ancestral roots to Sierra Leone through DNA testing, has donated \$25,000 to a computer animation project that aims to detail the Atlantic slave trade.

The "Grey's Anatomy" star started a nonprofit foundation last year to improve the lives of people in the West African nation.

"The stories of innumerable Sierra Leoneans that

were forced into slavery have yet to be extensively told," Washington said in a statement. "I believe this project will begin to shed some much-needed light on the region, both past and present."

The computer project focuses on Bunce Island, an 18th-century slave-trading castle that sent African captives to North America. Joseph Opala and Gary Chatelain, professors at James Madison University in

Virginia, are directing the project, which will show the castle as it appeared in 1805.

They hope to create an educational CD that will let students get a virtual look at the castle and its details to see what Africans experienced 250 years ago.

"Our computer animation project will allow us to go beyond the imagination and actually see how the Atlantic slave trade was carried out," which is crucial, because

those events could not be documented then by photography, Opala said in a statement.

Washington's donation was made through his Gondobay Manga Foundation and the Friends of Sierra Leone, a spokesman said recently.

The star of ABC's hit medical drama came under fire this year for using an anti-gay slur, for which he later apologized.

## Sinbad: I'm alive

MIAMI (AP) - Actor-comedian Sinbad had the last laugh after his Wikipedia entry announced he was dead, the performer said recently.

Rumors began circulating Saturday regarding the posting, said Sinbad, who first got a telephone call from his daughter. The gossip quieted, but a few days later the 50-year-old entertainer said the phone calls, text messages and e-mails started pouring in by the hundreds.

"Saturday, I rose from the dead and then died again," the Los Angeles-based entertainer told The Associated Press in a phone interview.

The St. Petersburg-based nonprofit organization, which describes itself as "the free encyclopedia that any-

one can edit," leaves it to a vast user community to catch factual errors and other problems. Apparently, someone edited it to say Sinbad died of a heart attack. By the time the error was caught, e-mail links of the erroneous page had been forwarded to hundreds of people.

A note on Sinbad's Wikipedia page last week said the site has been temporarily protected from editing to deal with vandalism.

Wikipedia was created in 2001 as a Web research tool. It has more than 1.6 million articles, contributed by members of the public.

A telephone call and an e-mail left for Wikipedia were not immediately returned.

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