



ASK DEANNA!
*Real People,
Real Advice*

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

Dear Deanna!

My grandmother is embarrassing because she's old and still trying to act young. It's annoying to see my grandmother trying to sing rap songs, smoke cigarettes and wearing jeans. My parents don't mind but I don't think it's right. I feel that she makes herself look foolish and she doesn't realize that people are laughing at her. I would like a few suggestions on how I can have this discussion with my grandmother without appearing disrespectful?

Amber
Oklahoma City, OK

Dear Amber:

Your grandmother is old enough to live her life without worrying about what you or anyone else thinks. You could learn things such self-confidence and the ability to love life from this woman. If she was smoking marijuana and dressing like a hoochie, you would have a legitimate problem. But since she's enjoying life, you should relax, take her shopping and be blessed that you have a grandmother that's on her feet and not deceased or in a nursing home.

Dear Deanna!

My daughter has left for college and made a mess out of her life. I took the time to help with student loans and scholarships, and she has flunked out of the first semester. I learned that she never went to class and her school supplies haven't been touched. To make matters worse, she's now back at home pregnant and unemployed. I don't have time for this, and I'm tired of dealing with her drama. I know this is my daughter, but what can I do to help without disrupting my life?

Glenda
Birmingham, AL

Dear Glenda:

Your daughter's bad life and mistakes are a reflection of your poor parenting skills. If you don't have time for your daughter now, you probably didn't have time when she was growing up, and now she doesn't know if she's going or coming. You need to make time now because, if you don't, you'll be stuck with her longer than you think. Help her restore her options in life and encourage her to go back to school, get a job and find the baby's father so she'll have help.

Dear Deanna!

I recently gave birth to a baby girl. My boyfriend was hoping for a boy and he seemed disappointed. Things were fine until the baby was three months old. My boyfriend stopped coming around and when he did, he always seemed distant. I later learned that he has a new son that is a month older than my daughter. He cheated on me, got someone pregnant and we had our kids at the same time. I am devastated and don't know what to do about this relationship?

Devastated New Mom
Queens, NY

Dear Devastated:

Your first mistake is having a baby out of wedlock. Another mistake is a boyfriend that showed disappointment because of the baby's gender. You can see in advance that if you stay with this man you're going to have cheating, drama from another woman and a stressful relationship. It's to your advantage to organize the child support payments and seek commitment. If he won't do the right thing, kick him to the curb, raise your child and keep it moving.

Write: Ask Deanna! Email: askdeanna1@yahoo.com or 264 S. LaCienega Blvd. Suite 1283 Beverly Hills, CA 90211 Website: www.askdeanna.com.

Dance

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mance I'll have butterflies."

Waring said she would probably have the urge to go to the bathroom "right before I go on stage," adding, "I'll be a little nervous, but I'm even more excited."

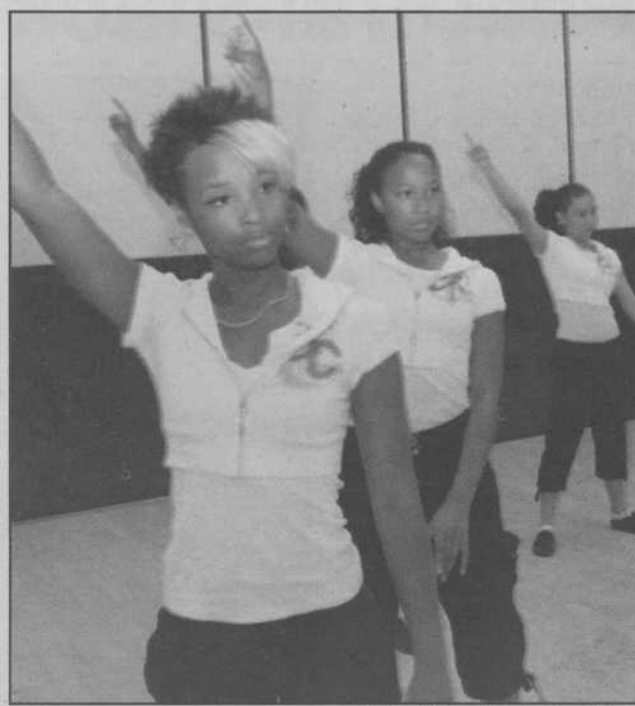
Nearly one year ago, Lewis-Walker submitted a tape of the young women, who specialize in hip-hop and praise dancing, practicing for an event.

After performing at the Martin Luther King Day Parade, the Las Vegas Music Awards and a competition in San Diego, the show finally responded, inviting the group to showcase their dancing skills on live television.

While the group's invitation to New York came as a welcome surprise, their ability to get there presented a bit of a challenge. The trip to Manhattan will cost each member over \$600.

Lewis-Walker said, "Realistically, the trip will cost each girl about \$750. We accept donations and received a few. We even picked up a shoe sponsor, Ja Sign, an emerging company trying to promote their new shoes."

Lewis-Walker continued, "We just wanted the girls to have a memorable New York experience, to see life outside of Las Vegas. We wanted to show them Ground Zero, the Statue of Liberty, have them ride the subway, see the skyscrapers, experience the hustle and bustle of the city, and maybe do some shopping, or catch a Broadway show. But these things cost money. So we try to help de-



Sentinel-Voice photo by Ramon Savoy

During their last days of rehearsal, dance group members Whitney Brown, Raquel Babero and Akia Cook try to coordinate the winning moves for their New York trip to BET's '106 & Park.' The group will perform next week.

fer the costs through donations and fundraising."

"These young, talented, African-American women are more than just dancers. They maintain above average grades, do community service, and through dance, have learned the importance of teamwork and sisterhood," she said.

Coordinator Tish Black said, "More important than dancing and competitions, these girls have learned about giving and giving back to their communities."

"Dance is more than a recreational activity," Lewis-Walker said.

"It can lead to higher education, help you receive scholarships. Dance teaches discipline and opens the door

to the realization of the importance of more academically and socially relevant issues. On June 13, however, dance will earn them some much deserved public recognition because they've really worked hard to get what they're getting."

The dance group's members range from 5-year-old girls to young women age 20. The group is run through a community program, which is sponsored through the City of Las Vegas Recreation Department.

According to the group's flyer, "The purpose of the group is to provide youth with a positive environment while allowing them to explore their creative talents in dance. This is a group where

our youth can come and learn life skills, socialize and express their talents through dance."

They participate in citywide, in-state, and out-of-state competitions. There are dues associated with joining the organization: a one time \$40 registration fee and a monthly fee of \$15. Every summer, the organization puts on CK Fest, a dance fest which funds \$200 scholarships to each of its graduating seniors to use toward upcoming semesters at the schools of their choice.

The group has three upcoming local events — the Juneteenth celebration on June 16 and the Community Day Out on June 23. And during New Year's Eve weekend, the group has been invited to dance at the Gator Bowl.

This group of young dancers collectively believe that the teamwork, unity, sisterhood, and drive that Critical Kondition provides is wonderful.

Through dance, they've discovered much about each other and even more about themselves.

For some, there are futures in dance, while others are simply enjoying the bonds they've formed.

Members emphasize that you can vote for the Critical Kondition Dance Group this Wednesday, June 13, at 3:00 p.m. local time, at www.bet.com (click on 106 & Park).

Babero said, "We need to win, we want to win. So, please, vote!"



There's nothing like it!

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