



ASK DEANNA! Real People, Real Advice

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

Dear Deanna!

I was at the movies and saw my friend's fiancée with another man. I understand that people have trust and free reign in their relationships but this wasn't normal. She was holding his hand and acting as if they were in love. I've been asked to be the best man in their wedding and now I'm stuck in this situation. I don't know if I should tell him she may be cheating or should I mind my business and bow out of the wedding. What should I do?

Ex Best Man
Paoli, PA

Dear Best Man:

You should go ahead and spill the beans so that you and others can possibly save some money. If you spend money on attire for the wedding and the bride is already cheating, they'll be headed for divorce soon. With true friendship comes loyalty and you should do what a woman would do. Call your friend or take him to lunch and tell him what you saw. Your conscience will be clear and he has the opportunity to make a decision and keep it moving.

Dear Deanna!

My friends are out of control. I'm afraid to be with them because they are getting bad reputations. We were at a house party and they had sex with a group of guys. The next day gossip was so bad in our town that our families we're fighting because of rumors. I didn't do anything at the party but now that my name is out there, I cut the friends loose. They're mad at me and call me a traitor. How do I handle this because they're my friends and I miss them?

Anonymous
Tampa, FL

Dear Anonymous:

The decision you make depends on what you want in life. If you want to be viewed as having loose morals, no class and a bad reputation, your current friends can make that happen. Your friends and lifestyle are a direct reflection of your character which will affect your employment and all of your relationships. If you want a good life with decency and respect keep, the current friends at arms length, find some new ones and call it a day.

Dear Deanna!

I'm a newlywed and I feel depressed now that I'm finally married. It seems as if the excitement is gone and my husband is different than when he was a boyfriend. He always tells me that he gave me what I wanted and to move on to something else. The dates, gifts and spontaneous things have disappeared and it feels like I got a lot of work in return. Is this normal for a new bride or am I setting my expectations too high?

Sad New Bride
Oklahoma City, OK

Dear New Bride:

You wanted to be married when you wanted to be married and your boyfriend went along with your demands to make you happy. Instead of pressuring him, you should've let things flow and allowed him to get comfortable with the idea before taking the leap. You can renew the spark in your relationship by taking the lead with creativity, a lot of love and focus on goals and the future. Keep your husband involved and you'll see him coming around slowly but surely.

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

T.I. battles alter-ego on CD

ATLANTA (AP) - If the ailing hip-hop is in need of a savior, it may have found the perfect superhero in T.I.

The self-proclaimed "King of the South" has already proven he's up to the challenge, outselling the likes of Jay-Z and Ludacris to own last year's top-selling rap album with "King."

But like most superheroes, T.I. is a conflicted soul, battling an alter-ego and demons that sometimes make it difficult for him to complete his mission. Last year, as he was reaching his peak, the killing of a friend and other troubles had him on the verge of quitting — until he realized he had a public duty to answer hip-hop's SOS call.

"The hip-hop industry is at a state of emergency, and it would've been really selfish for me to leave. If I ain't doing it, no one will be doing it the right way," he confidently said.

"It's all about continuing a movement," he added. "Hey, with me around, it's definitely not through."

The next part of the movement, T.I.'s "T.I. vs. T.I.P.," is out this month. On it, he faces off against the impetuous Tip, his other persona, but also details some of the troubles that pushed him to the brink of retirement last year.

"This whole album is just a documentary," he said. "It enabled me to diversify myself — battle myself in some way. It's a creative way to address everything that has been going on in my life."

Tragedy touched T.I. twice over the past year. A few months ago, his on-again, off-again girlfriend, Tameka "Tiny" Cottle of defunct R&B group Xscape, gave birth to a baby daughter who died shortly afterward.

And last year, his best friend Philant Johnson was killed and three others were injured in a gun shootout following a post-performance party in Cincinnati. The killer was never caught, and T.I. was briefly locked up a few days after the funeral for allegedly failing to perform community service, stemming from a 2003 arrest.

Frustrated by the situation, T.I. says Tip (a childhood name given by his father) told Atlantic Records executives that he was done with rap career was done for good. He was fed up, believing his other ventures would provide less strife.



T.I. wars with his alter-ego T.I.P. in his newest album. The Atlanta-based rapper says his newest CD offers an introspective look at his struggle to keep it real while making a living.

"I figured I could continue my construction endeavors, my acting, my fashion line and get the same money with less threat," said T.I., recalling the ordeal while getting a haircut at his recording studio.

T.I. is quick to blame Tip for hotheaded decisions that often lead to trouble. It's Tip that got the public blame at the recent BET awards as T.I. apologized for a scuffle with Ludacris' camp a few days earlier.

"When I was in school, teachers couldn't believe how smart I was but so bad, and when I was bad but so smart. That's T.I. and Tip right there, even then, if you want to put a name on it," he said.

And he says it was Tip who made the decision to

quit rap, until a more reasoned T.I. stepped in.

"After you bury your best friend, bury a child and others, this rap game seems so simple. The more I deal with it, the more it shows that it can't stop me. So, it ain't nothing this game can do to me. I'm ready for anything."

Close friend Lil Jon says the rapper has always tried to evolve, whether behind the mic, the movie camera (he's featured in two movies) or as co-CEO of Grand Hustle Records.

"Tip has always done his best," he said. "To see him overcome so many obstacles and still produce quality albums and have a lead movie role is amazing. That could be overwhelming to some, but not him."

Most who have worked

with T.I. credit his success to his versatile flow and raw rhymes. He can switch with ease from a relaxed approach in such songs like "Be Easy" to a drowsy effect in "Top Back" to an even faster delivery in the "Make It Rain" remix.

"He adapts to the beat," said Mannie Fresh, who produced the first single from "T.I. vs. T.I.P.," "Big Things Poppin," with T.I. as co-producer. "I have seen his maturity in lyrics and creativity grow through the years. Just look at the numbers."

Through five albums, each record has steadily increased in sales. He went from his 2001 debut release, "I'm Serious," which sold about 270,000 copies, to selling over a half-million al-

(See T.I., Page 7)

Prince plays three shows in Minnesota hometown

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) - Prince thrilled his hometown fans with three shows over 12 hours, stopping only when police shut him down early Sunday.

The Minneapolis native first performed Saturday at a department store to promote his new cologne, cramming nine songs into a 45-minute set. He then played that night at the Target Center arena. He capped the night across the street with a return to First Avenue, the club he made famous in the movie "Purple Rain."

"Minneapolis, I am home," the Purple One declared after the first song at Macy's department store.

Minnesota's governor and the Minneapolis mayor issued proclamations honoring Prince, and fans flew in from all over the country to see him.

After the Target Center, Prince waited until nearly 2:45 a.m. before starting the First Avenue show, the first time he had played at the

club since 1987. He was 15 songs and 70 minutes into a 24-song set when he announced from the stage: "The authorities say we gotta go. We always listen to the authorities. I promise I'll be back."

The club is allowed to stay open till 3 a.m. as long as liquor isn't served after 2 a.m.

Police Sgt. E.T. Nelson, watching from across the street as fans left the club, pointed to the many officers working overtime because of the event. More than 20 officers had worked to block off the streets surrounding the club and Target Center.

"I think it's very arrogant of him to think he can hold us here like this," said Nelson. "The law is the law for anybody."

First Avenue owner Byron Frank said the police talked with Prince's crew and did give the rocker a little extra time to wind it down.

"It's very sad they had to do it, because everybody was having such a wonderful time," Frank said.