



ASK DEANNA! Real People, Real Advice

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

Dear Deanna!

I'm dealing with a roommate who has some serious issues. I have been friends with her for years and she always appeared to have her act together. Now that we live under one roof, I'm being exposed to her bad spending habits, housekeeping issues and poor choices in men. All of these things put together are causing stress in our friendship and the household. Is there anything I can do to improve this situation before evicting her?

Stressed Housemate
Oklahoma City, OK

Dear Housemate:

The first thing you should do is see if this arrangement began on paper instead of a verbal promise. If you have a document, you're safe. You need to be a friend and help get her budget together and provide guidance and a schedule for the household responsibilities. There's not much you can do about the loser men she selects. After you've spent time and effort, if she still doesn't have a clue, pack your bags, leave her in her misery and keep it moving.

Dear Deanna!

My best friend has expressed interest in my brother. The problem is the fact that he's happily married. I made the mistake of complaining about my sister-in-law and how much I don't like her. I feel my friend has misunderstood me and developed her plan to be with my brother. I love my sister-in-law and would never hurt her, but my friend is pressuring me to participate in her plan for an affair. I'm willing to end my friendship over this but I'm scared.

Janis H.
Charleston, SC

Dear Janis:

You're making the right decision by choosing family and also demonstrating good morals. If your friend is that lowdown to have an affair, then you need to distance yourself before you become as trifling as she is. She didn't misunderstand you but instead, she sees the good life your brother gives his wife. It's in your best interest to let her know she needs to get this silly idea out of her head or she'll lose your friendship and won't get it back.

Dear Deanna!

I'm in a dilemma about a staff member with whom I have a friendship. We both started this job as friends but I decided to take a career approach. I've moved up the ladder and now I'm her boss. I'm able to exercise good judgment and delegate duties and responsibilities in a very fair manner. She's causing problems because she gives others the impression she has favoritism. If this continues, I have to discipline her or terminate her. How do I handle this?

Anonymous
Online Reader

Dear Anonymous:

As long as you play the game fair, you won't have any problems. Your friend and staff member needs to understand you both have a job and she can be fired or disciplined like anyone else. The only thing you need to do is stick to the rules, remove friendship during business hours and handle your business as a leader and boss. Then again, if you're not mature or business savvy enough to handle this, perhaps you should be fired instead.

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Whites also lag post-Katrina

By Kam Williams
Sentinel-Voice

Because of the indelible images of masses of Black people abandoned on rooftops, under highway overpasses and at the Superdome, many people might think that only African-Americans were adversely affected by Hurricane Katrina. But the disaster has taken a terrible ongoing toll on poor White folks, too, as chronicled in a compelling documentary entitled "Kamp Katrina."

Directed by Ashley Sabin and David Redmon, the film follows the efforts of Ms. Pearl, an altruistic Native-American woman who, with the approval of her husband, David Cross, converted their backyard in to a tent village for locals left homeless in the wake of the flood that devastated the region a couple of years ago.

David operates a construction company and is willing to employ anyone camping out on the premises in order to help them get back on their feet. In fact, he establishes certain house rules, including no drugs and a mandate that everyone there find work of some kind, even if not with his company.

Unfortunately, the rent-free offer turns out to be flypaper for the disturbed, and what begins as a utopian oasis gradually turns into a never-ending nightmare. One man snaps and tries to strangle his girlfriend because she asked him to find her a pot to pee in, literally. Another man is asked to leave because he was pressuring a pregnant woman to get high.

Unsavory characters are attracted to the area by a resident who starts dealing crack, while a delusional mental patient who calls himself The Prophet roams around mumbling to himself incoherently about this being the Apocalypse. A couple is kicked out after stealing a Tiffany lamp from the bedroom of the owners, and a rape victim warns another female to sleep with one eye open.

So, it's clear that what David and Ms. Pearl are dealing with here are the dregs of humanity, but the question is whether the squatters were already like this before Katrina or only bottomed-out after losing all their earthly possessions in the blink of an eye.

This picture is often touching, such as when the hosts play Santa for Christmas and try to fill each

person's wish list. Surprisingly, most of the requests are for mundane, everyday items, like toilet paper or a tool bag.

Unfortunately, the movie doesn't exactly end on an upbeat note, since the toll takes a heavy emotional toll on everyone, including Ms.

Pearl.

Plus, the mother of the newborn surrenders the baby for foster care, and another young woman suffers seizures from snorting coke.

Mayor Nagin makes a cameo appearance. In it, he is portrayed crushing these displaced folks' hopes for a

helping hand by ending free meal and mental health programs and generally championing corporate interests over those of the longtime locals. An eye-opening exposé welcoming Whites to the Third World.

Excellent (4 stars). This movie is unrated.

Forbes.com: Jay-Z richest rap mogul; Diddy also rates highly

NEW YORK (AP) - Jay-Z wins all around, says Forbes.com. He's got Beyonce on his arm — and more millions than 50 Cent and Diddy.

The rap icon, aka Shawn Carter, is No. 1 on the site's list of "Hip-Hop Cash Kings," based solely on 2006 income. He banked an estimated \$34 million, Forbes.com said recently.

Jay-Z, president and CEO of Def Jam Recordings, released his 11th studio album, "Kingdom Come," which sold around 2 million copies. Jay-Z, 37, is also part owner of the New Jersey Nets and

has endorsement deals with Budweiser, Hewlett-Packard and General Motors.

Curtis "50 Cent" Jackson ranks second with an estimated \$32 million. The 31-year-old rapper-businessman oversees his G-Unit record label, clothing line, ringtones and other enterprises, and has sold more than 11 million albums. His latest record, "Curtis," is due out Sept. 11.

Diddy (real name: Sean Combs) placed third with an estimated \$28 million. A fashion plate, he has a clothing line, Sean John, and heads Bad Boy Worldwide Entertainment and its record

label. Diddy, 37, is also host of MTV's "Making the Band" series.

Rounding out the top five are Timbaland (\$21 million) and Dr. Dre (\$20 million).

They're followed by Eminem (\$18 million); Snoop Dogg, Kanye West, Pharrell Williams and Scott Storch (all \$17 million); Ludacris and T.I. (both \$16 million); Outkast and Lil Jon (both \$14 million); Ice Cube (\$13 million); Jermaine Dupri and Swizz Beatz (both \$12 million); Chamillionaire and The Game (both \$11 million); and Young Joc (\$10 million).



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