



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 in college and me and my peers have the same issues. We're short on money, have to do odd jobs to buy gas, and we pool our money to buy food. Things are working out with the exception of one friend that isn't pulling her load. She rides in the car with us and eats the food but we noticed that she isn't contributing to the fund. We all have seen her with new clothes and manicures. How do we tell her that she needs to pay her money or she's out of the group?

Carla
Pensacola, FL

Dear Carla:

You guys are on the right track, as you've realized early on that there is strength in numbers. You need to carefully document all the agreed upon activity within the group and demonstrate her lack of participation. Have a face-to-face discussion once you've verified a few things and can determine if her shortcomings are legitimate or bogus. If she's been getting over, then your friend is really a free-loader and let her know that she needs to start paying her way or get out of the group.

Dear Deanna:

I broke up with my boyfriend over something silly, and now I regret my actions. I thought he was cheating on me with my best friend, but they were actually buying me a gift. I said some horrible things to both of them, and they're not speaking to me. I want to get back with him, but I think he is looking at my friend because she seems more mature than me. What should I do if they start dating? I know it's my fault but it's going to tear me apart.

Made a Mistake
Atlanta, GA

Dear Mistake:

You obviously have trust issues if you can't feel secure with your mate or your friends. Your foolish tongue has caused you to lose your relationship and your friend. The only thing you can do is apologize to both parties and ask your boyfriend for another chance. If he says no and goes with your buddy, then you learned a valuable lesson. And if they'll do this in your face, you didn't need them anyway.

Dear Deanna!

I'm a newlywed and now I realize that I don't want to be married. I dated my boyfriend for six months and things were great. Now that we live together, I see things I don't like. He's not nice anymore and I feel stressed out. I wish things could be the same as when we were dating. Our intimacy is suffering, and I don't know what to do. How can I figure out what has happened and why this new marriage is so bad?

Married But Miserable
Memphis, TN

Dear Miserable:

The marriage is fine other than the fact you got caught up after a short time and married someone you didn't know well enough. The drama, stress and responsibility begin the day after the wedding. You now have to look at the good, the bills and the ugly, which comes with the territory. Have a talk with your husband and share your fears and feelings. As a couple, he's there to help sort through things and get better adjusted to this new marriage.

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

Ross zooms to top of Billboard

Special to Sentinel-Voice

Miami rapper Rick Ross scores his second straight chart-topper on the Billboard 200 as "Trilla" debuts at No. 1.

The album sold 198,000 units in the United States during the week ended March 16, according to Nielsen SoundScan. That marks an improvement over the 187,000 copies shifted by his 2006 No. 1, "Port of Miami."

The "NOW 27" compilation is new at No. 2 with 169,000, the lowest opening week for a regular "NOW" album since the first edition bowed in 1998 with 48,000. Of the 27 installments of the regular "NOW" line, all but four have debuted with more than 200,000.

Snoop Dogg's "Ego Trippin'" debuts at No. 3 with 137,000, fueled by the top 10 Hot 100 success of the single "Sensual Seduction." But this is the lowest first-week sales total for any of the veteran rapper's studio albums.



RAPPER RICK ROSS

New at No. 6 is rapper Fat Joe's "The Elephant in the Room," which sold 46,000 copies. Janet Jackson's "Discipline" slips from No. 3 to No. 8 in its third week, on a 34.5 percent decline to 38,000.

Erykah Badu's "New Amerykah: Part One (4th World War)" drops from the sixth rung to No. 9, with 35,000 (a fall-off of 16 percent).

Just below, at No. 11, the "NOW That's What I Call 80's" compilation. "NOW 80's" was also available in an 80-track edition exclusive to Apple's iTunes Store. The latter is charting separately, and its sales are not counted in the 20-track version's tally.

The only other debut in the top 50 comes from "American Idol" judge Randy Jackson's "Randy Jackson's Music Club: Vol. 1" at No. 50 with 13,000 copies sold.

Its first single, "Dance Like There's No Tomorrow," features fellow "Idol" judge Paula Abdul.

Album sales this week are up 3.4 percent over the previous week to 7.94 million, but down 6.6 percent compared with the same week in 2007.

'Hogan's Heroes' actor Dixon dies

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — Actor Ivan Dixon, who brought the problems and promise of contemporary Blacks to life in the film "Nothing But a Man," has died. He was 76.

Dixon died Sunday at Presbyterian Hospital in Charlotte after a hemorrhage, said his daughter, Doris Nomathande Dixon of Charlotte. He had suffered complications from kidney failure, she said.

Dixon, who also directed scores of television shows, began his acting career in the late 1950s.

While not a hit, the 1964 "Nothing But a Man," in which Dixon co-starred with Abbey Lincoln, also drew praise as a rare, early effort to bring the lives of Black Americans to the big screen.

Other film credits include the cult favorite "Car Wash."

"As an actor, you had to be careful," said Sidney Poitier, star of "Patch of Blue" and a longtime friend. "He was quite likely to walk off with the scene."

In 1967, Dixon starred in a CBS Playhouse drama, "The Final War of Olly Winter," about a veteran of World War II and Korea who decided that Vietnam would be his final war.

The role brought Dixon an Emmy nomination for best single performance by an actor.

He was probably best known for the role of Staff Sgt. James Kinchloe on "Hogan's Heroes," the hit 1960s sitcom set in a German prisoner-of-war camp during World War II.

Dixon was active in efforts to get better parts for



In this March 1967 photo, actor Ivan Dixon and actress Diana Sands are seen in an episode of the 'The Fugitive.'

Blacks in movies and television, telling *The New York Times* in 1967: "Sponsors haven't wanted anything negative connected with their products. We must convince them that the Negro is not negative."

"Heretofore, people have thought that, to use a Negro, the story must pit Black against White. Maybe we're getting to the problems of human beings who happen to be Black."

While Dixon was most proud of roles such as those in "A Raisin in the Sun" and "Nothing But a Man," he had no problem about being recognized for Kinchloe, his daughter said.

"It was a pivotal role as well, because there were not as many Blacks in TV series at that time," Nomathande Dixon said.

"He did have some personal issues with that role, but it also launched him into directing."

Dixon also directed numerous episodes of TV shows, including "The Waltons," "The Rockford Files," "Magnum, P.I." and "In the Heat of the Night."

In 1973, he directed the

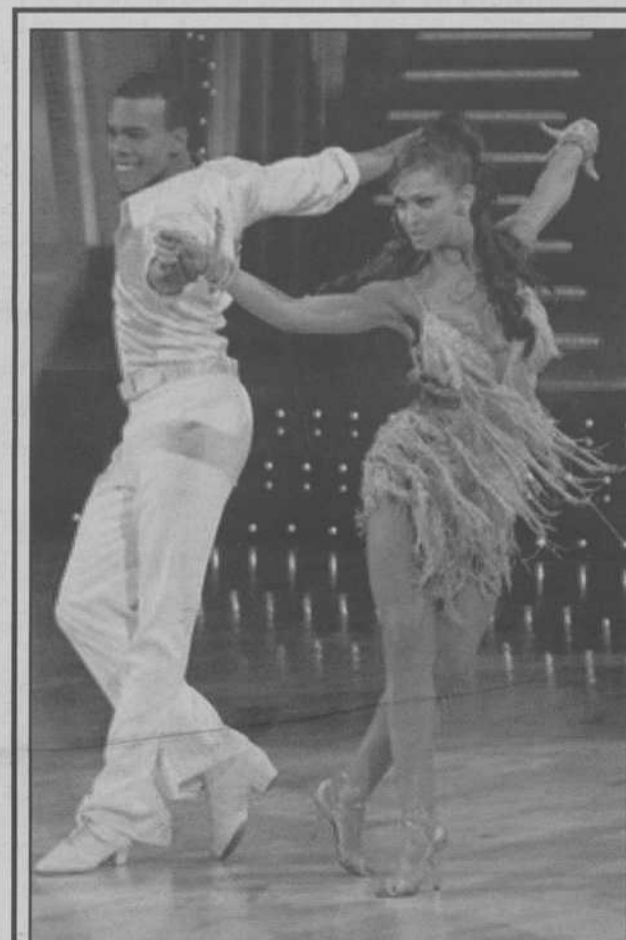
Black CIA agent who becomes a revolutionary.

He also directed the 1972 "blaxploitation" story "Trouble Man."

Born in 1931 in New York, Dixon graduated in 1954 from North Carolina Central University in Durham.

In addition to his daughter, survivors include his wife of 53 years, Berlie Dixon of Charlotte, and a son, Alan Kimara Dixon of Oakland.

At Dixon's request, no memorial or funeral is planned, according to the family.



DANCE FEVER

ABC's "Dancing with the Stars" contestant Mario with Karina Smirnoff perform a choreographed routine on Monday in the Hollywood section of Los Angeles.