



ASK DEANNA! Real People, Real Advice

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

Dear Deanna!

My son is growing up to be a very angry little boy because he misses his father. I had a relationship with his dad but broke up with him because I wanted to be with someone else. My son doesn't like my new boyfriend so he is misbehaving, throwing tantrums and his personality has changed. I want to take him to counseling but wanted to ask if you think he's rebelling because he doesn't see his real father anymore?

Anonymous
Denver, CO

Dear Anonymous:

Your son is hurt because his father is gone and you bring in a new uncle. As parents, you had an obligation to explain the changes to your son so he could adjust. In a child's mind, he sees his father leave and another man is now kissing his mother. Focus your attention on your child and get to the root of his problems. If counseling is an option for your son, be prepared and open minded to some personal lifestyle changes because the results will be priceless.

Dear Deanna!

I have gained a lot of weight, and I feel that my husband is falling out of love with me. He's not intimate with me, we don't cuddle, and he always acts as if I'm annoying him. I am trying to diet, but it is so stressful sitting by watching and feeling that I'm losing my husband. He claims that he still loves me, but his actions are extremely different from the words he says. What can I do to recapture the fire and energy in my marriage?

Overweight Wife
Toledo, OH

Dear Overweight:

If you're having these feelings, there's no sense denying there's some truth to what's going on. The best way to tell if your husband is slipping is for you to lose weight. You need to be happy with good self-esteem. Once you get back into your zone, measure your husband's activity and behavior towards you. If things don't change, you have a problem that goes beyond weight. Be prepared for a discussion, and seek honest answers regarding your relationship.

Dear Deanna!

I'm dating someone new and he has a child. My boyfriend's daughter is 10 years old, and she has no manners or home training. When they come to my house, she puts her dirty feet on the sofa and leaves her cups and candy wrappers everywhere. I nicely asked her to remove her things one day, and he became upset with me. This is a problem, and I see the relationship won't go any further until this is addressed. How do I deal with this sensitive subject?

Andrea
Charleston, SC

Dear Andrea:

You need to let your boyfriend know that your home is not a barn and his child will not treat it as such. The next time they visit, handle your business and tell her to remove her feet, clean after herself or whatever else you need to do. If your boyfriend says something, use that opportunity to share your expectations. Moving forward, if he or his daughter ignores the rules you provided, addresses it once more and if they don't comply, dump them both 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.

Competent film taps headlines

By Kam Williams
Sentinel-Voice

In the not too distant future, if it hasn't already transpired, mega-corporations might replace nations as the world's most powerful political entities. This is the state of affairs contemplated by "War, Inc.," a sophisticated satire directed by Joshua Seftel ("Queer Eye for the Straight Guy").

The story reads like a logical extension of what some cynics say we have unfolding in Iraq, as it revolves around the efforts of a former U.S. Vice-President (Dan Aykroyd) to monopolize the economy of a mythical war-torn country, Turaqistan, on behalf of Tamerlane, an American company to which he has close ties. This scenario amounts to a thinly veiled allusion to Dick Cheney's ostensibly engineering lucrative no-bid contracts in Iraq on behalf of Halliburton and its subsidiaries.

The fun starts soon after the ex-VP hires a mercenary, Brand Hauser (John Cusack), to kill Omar Sharif (Lyubomir Neikov), no, not the actor, but a Middle East



Ben Kingsley leads a talented cast in the topical "War, Inc."

oil minister representing Tamerlane's primary competitor. Hauser is a burnt out hit man in need of a break, having just come from an assignment where he had to waste a bunch of beer-swilling Germans in a bar.

Upon arriving in Turaqistan, he is ushered into Emerald City, a heavily-fortified sanctuary suspiciously similar to the Green Zone. There, he is given a position with Tamerlane and a secretary (Joan Cusack) to provide

a cover for his real reason for his being in the region. While awaiting an opportunity to eliminate Omar, he divides his time between wooing a leftist American journalist (Marisa Tomei) and planning the wedding of Central Asia's current singing sensation, Yonica Babyyeah (Hillary Duff).

Like a campy cross of "Dr. Strangelove" and "Wag the Dog," this celluloid anti-war screed serves up a mesmerizing mélange of action,

romance, slapstick, intrigue, gore, sentimentality, sensuality and sleight of hand when not offering pointed insights about the dire prospects for a corporatized planet. Fortunately, front man John Cusack's face has finally matured to the point that it no longer has that boyish look about it. His ever-underrated sister, Joan, turns in one of her trademark nonpareil performances, and not to be outdone are either Marisa Tomei or the barely-recognizable Hillary Duff in her capacity as a musical Muslim moll.

As humorous as it is thought-provoking, "War, Inc." is chock full of memorable moments, perhaps the best being the hand-to-hand showdown in the belly of a garbage truck between our reluctant hero and a worthy adversary (Ben Kingsley). Ever seen a villain trash compacted into submission?

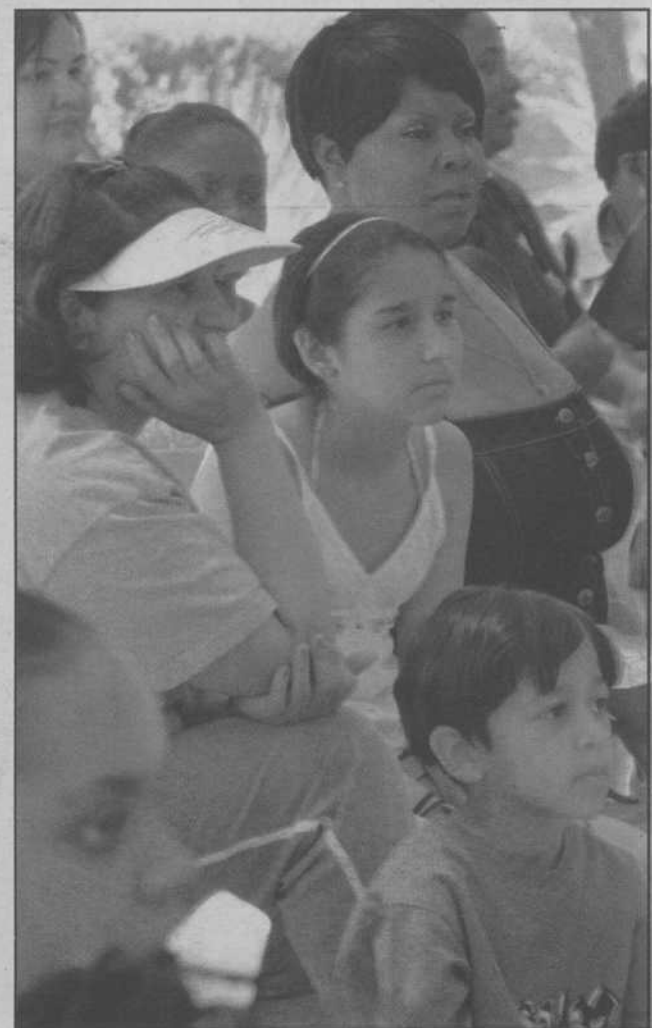
A preposterous, impossible to pigeonhole spoof which somehow satisfactorily adds up to more than the sum of its seemingly incompatible parts.

Excellent (4 stars). Rated R for violence, profanity and brief sexuality.

Events marry taste, tunes, culture

This weekend, the cities of Las Vegas and North Las Vegas held community events that contained vendors, games, entertainment and contests. Pictured below, at the 16th annual Unity Fest held in the cultural corridor of Historic West Las Vegas, vendors enjoyed the sales of African artifacts as the diverse audience watched the dance troupe So Critical perform. The sixth annual Taste & Tunes Festival in North Las Vegas (top photos) featured

Sentinel-Voice photos by Ramon Savoy



old-school favorite, Midnight Star, performing Saturday night. Each event drew appreciative crowds. Thousands enjoyed Taste and Tunes, while the Unity Fest featured a slew of activities, including swimming, basketball, face painting and more.