



## ASK DEANNA! Real People, Real Advice

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

Dear Deanna!

I had a friend that was lonely and unhappy, so I decided to help her. I asked her to be my roommate and introduced her to my crowd. She later told our mutual friends about my personal business and she became best friends with them. They told lies about me around campus, my grades deteriorated, and I lost my friends. I have wanted to get back at her for backstabbing me. How do I repair a ruined reputation and deal with these vicious two-faced people?

Totally Ruined  
Online Reader

Dear Ruined:

Consider yourself lucky that your so-called friends have been revealed as wolves. These weren't your friends to begin with and you shouldn't let them see you stress. Hold your head high, get a life and find a new set of friends with high values and morals. The two-faced people are beneath you and you should separate yourself. Get a tutor to help pull your grades up, and stick with people that have common interests. Stay positive, smile and keep it moving.

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Dear Deanna!

My girlfriend is sending mixed signals about our relationship. At times, she makes me feel as if I'm the only one for her and other times she makes me feel as if she doesn't want me. As long as I'm spending money and things go her way, she's happy. When things aren't rosy or I have an issue or need attention, she acts funny. I'm beginning to feel like she's using me but don't know how to approach her. How do I ask where I stand in this relationship?

Wayne  
Altus, OK

Dear Wayne:

You're being used and have allowed yourself to become a financial sponsor. If you can't pull the money away and still get the girl, you have your answer. She doesn't give a damn about you, and her emotions are tied to your money and what she can get out of you. You can make an effort and let her know you're scaling back on the spending and ask to have your needs met. If she agrees to work on this, then stick with it. If not, pack your bags and exit stage left.

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Dear Deanna!

I have a situation where I'll be wrong no matter what happens. My sister and I were talking and she made a comment that if I knew her husband was cheating I probably wouldn't tell her. Imagine my surprise that she said this, because he's having an affair. I'm the other woman and we've been seeing each other for a while. I feel guilty because I think she's suspicious, just not of me. I need some help breaking this news to her.

Confused Sister  
Jacksonville, MS

Dear Confused:

Pull out a pen and add the words trifling, low-life and scandalous next to your face. You need to let her husband know that you're going to tell and then see how much he loves his wife when he lies, places all the blame on you and throws you under the bus. If they stay together, your new title will be tramp while the family looks down upon you. If he leaves, you won't be on his list of selections. Grow up and learn some family values and get your own man.

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

# DMX jailed 90 days for felonies

PHOENIX (AP) — Rapper DMX was sentenced to 90 days in jail for convictions on theft, drug-possession and animal-cruelty charges. DMX, whose real name is Earl Simmons, also was placed on at least 18 months' supervised probation by Maricopa County Superior Court Commissioner Phemonia Miller.

Simmons pleaded guilty Dec. 30 to three felony counts — theft, possession or use of marijuana, and possession or use of narcotic drugs — and one misdemeanor count of animal cruelty.

The 38-year-old rapper has been in the Maricopa County Jail since being arrested Dec. 9 in Miami on a warrant after failing to appear in court in Phoenix. His attorney, Stephen Lee Crawford, didn't immediately return calls seeking comment.

The Arizona Republic re-

ported that Simmons was smiling as he entered the courtroom but sat down writhing in pain and subsequently said he had pain in his feet and knees and thought he was suffering from gout.

Miller told him she was sentencing Earl Simmons, not DMX, the newspaper reported. "I don't know DMX. Mr. Simmons, it's time you do something different," she said. "What you have been

doing is not working."

Despite the prosecutor's objections, Miller said she would allow Simmons to apply to serve his sentence in Florida, the Republic said.

The animal-cruelty and drug charges stem from an August 2007 raid that Maricopa County sheriff's deputies conducted at Simmons' home in Cave Creek, a Phoenix suburb. Authorities investigating a report of animal abuse found

three dead dogs, guns, ammunition and drug paraphernalia.

He was not given credit for time served and will not get out of jail until the end of April, said Mike Anthony Scerbo, a spokesman for Maricopa County Attorney's Office, which prosecuted the case. DMX's albums include "It's Dark and Hell is Hot," "Flesh of My Flesh, Blood of My Blood" and "Year of the Dog ... Again."

# Black Film Festival suffers as economy hurts industry

By Olu Alemoru  
Special to Sentinel-Voice  
LOS ANGELES (NNPA) — One of the country's best known Black film festivals — The Pan African Film & Arts Festival — is on the move amid talk of financial

and organizational difficulties. Founded in 1992, the festival will move from what has long been its main venue, the Magic Johnson AMC Theaters in Los Angeles' Crenshaw District, to the Culver City Plaza Theaters

when it returns for its 17th year Feb. 5-16.

The annual gathering features films from the U.S., Africa, the Caribbean, Latin America, Europe, the South Pacific and Canada, as well (See Festival, Page 7)



## SOUND THE TRUMPET

The 17th Trumpet Awards Ceremony took place last month in Atlanta. The annual event recognizes African-American men and women who've made their mark on Black history through their civic and social contributions. This year's recipients reflect a who's who from nearly every positive aspect of Black life, from music to ministry. The honorees for 2009 include former NBA star and stellar businessman Earvin "Magic" Johnson, actress Raven Symone, actor-comedian Chris Tucker, Chief Richard Pennington, Michael Roberts and Pastor Paula White. In addition, the Trumpet Awards Foundation hands out hundreds of scholarships to students. R & B artists Teena Marie, center, and En Vogue were among several musical guests. Trumpet Awards founder Xernona Clayton, right, stands next to Sherri Shepherd, co-host of "The View," and Anthony Anderson of "Law & Order." The duo served as hosts of this year's awards ceremony.

Sentinel-Voice photos  
by Marty Frierson

