



ASK DEANNA! Real People, Real Advice

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

Dear Deanna!

I've been seeing a nice lady for a while, but her spending habits bother me. She spends money in a reckless way and acts as if money grows on trees. I made the mistake of always paying and always being financially responsible. Her electricity was disconnected but she went and purchased new shoes after I paid her bill. This relationship can't go any further until I address this, but I don't know how.

James C.
Birmingham, AL

Dear James:

I don't want to burst your bubble but you may have an undercover gold digger on your hands. Dating requires financial responsibility and equal spending. Instead of trying to be an impressive big spender, you should've been wise and let the lady share some of the expenses along the way. You need to keep it real and let her know that she needs to get her money in check, express your feelings and keep it moving.

Dear Deanna!

I've finally overcome trust issues when it comes to being open for a relationship. I've met a man who wants to get married, but my mind is playing tricks on me. I keep thinking things are too good to be true. Recently my fiancé and I have had a lot of arguments because he's accusing me of picking fights and finding imaginary faults with the relationship. Am I messing things up on purpose or am I just paranoid?

Renea
Atlanta, GA

Dear Renea:

You need to calm yourself down and stop sabotaging your relationship. If your instinct is giving you certain feelings and you have measurable things to confirm your doubt, then it's time for a chat with your fiancé. If there's no proof, then you have a commitment issue that needs to be addressed before taking the final step. Lay your cards, fears and doubts on the table and keep it real.

Dear Deanna!

I'm in a committed relationship, with no children or financial concerns. However, I do want children. Do you think I should adopt or end the relationship because the lady I'm with doesn't plan on having kids?

Damien
Online Reader

Dear Damien:

Regardless of where they come from, natural birth or adoption, both parties must agree on the children issue. There's a difference between a woman not wanting to physically birth children versus not wanting any at all. Have a discussion with your mate and see if she's willing to adopt. If so, you're fine. If not, decide if you want to be with this woman or find one that'll fulfill your dream to hear the pitter patter of little feet.

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3-D film has family-friendly fun

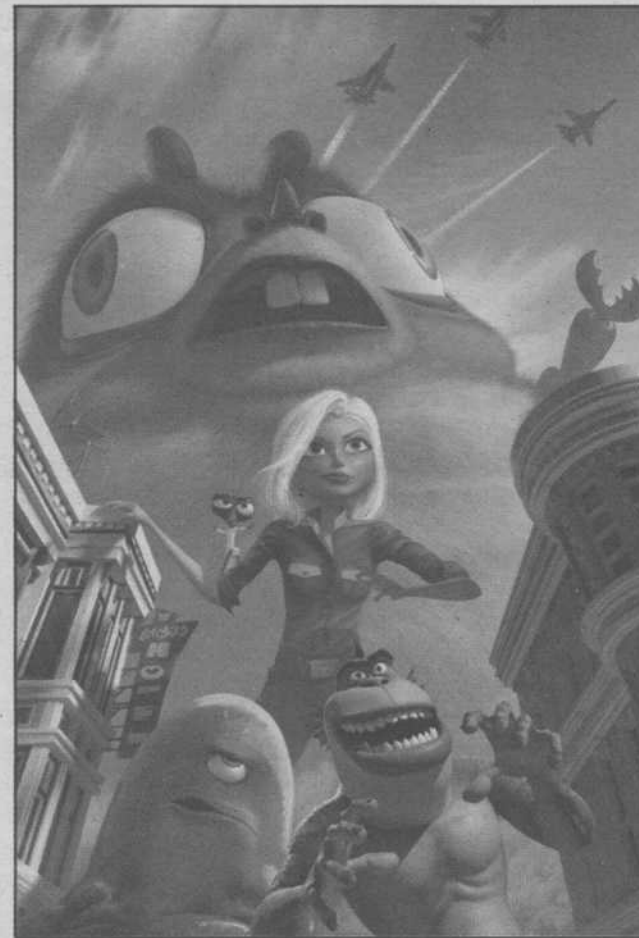
By Kam Williams
Sentinel-Voice

Despite planning the perfect wedding, Susan Murphy's (Reese Witherspoon) big day ends up derailed by a series of disasters. First, her self-absorbed fiancé, Derek (Paul Rudd), asks at the last minute if she would mind honeymooning in Fresno instead of Paris, so that he could schedule an audition for a TV news anchor position there.

But that annoying inconvenience pales in comparison to what transpires when she's struck by a mammoth meteorite falling out of the sky shortly before entering the church.

For, by the time Susan has walked down the aisle, the guest can't help but notice that the bride isn't blushing anymore but glowing iridescent green and gradually morphing into a 50-foot tall, platinum blonde blessed with superhuman strength.

This development soon comes across the radar of General W.R. Monger (Kiefer Sutherland), the head of a top secret federal agency assigned to hide any proof of paranormal phenomena from the public. So, he dispatches soldiers armed with tranquilizer darts to subdue Susan and to cart her off to a maximum-security government



"Monsters vs. Aliens" is wholesome fun for the family.

facility where four other genetic anomalies are already housed.

There, Susan, aka Ginormica, bonds with her fellow freaks of nature: B.O.B. (Seth Rogen), a brainless, but indestructible, gelatinous blob; Dr. Cockroach (Hugh Laurie), a brilliant mad scientist; Insectosaurus (Conrad

Vernon), a 350 foot-long, silk-spitting worm; and the Missing Link (Will Arnett), an amphibious hybrid which looks like the first creature to crawl out of the sea on the evolution chart. And just when they're on the verge of giving up any hope of ever seeing the light of day again, a flying saucer lands in California with an army of men-

acing clones aboard.

After their diabolical leader Gallaxhar (Rainn Wilson) paradoxically announces "I come in peace... I mean you no harm and you will all die," hawkish President Hathaway (Stephen Colbert) is impatient to exercise the nuclear option in response.

However, General Monger talks the commander-in-chief into unleashing his rag-tag team of superheroes on the horde of invaders from outer space.

The spectacular (especially in 3-D) epic battle which ensues up and down the streets of San Francisco, on the Golden Gate Bridge and below in the Bay is the raison d'être of "Monsters vs. Aliens," a CGI-driven animated adventure that's all about the wow factor. Don't be put off by the spoon-fed storyline simplistic enough for a five year-old to follow; this is a flick to be appreciated for its technical wizardry alone.

A wholesome family flick that everybody can enjoy, provided mom and dad are willing to turn off their brains when they put on the 3-D glasses.

Excellent film (3.5 stars). Rated PG for sci-fi action, crude humor and mild use of inappropriate epithets.

T.I. given year on weapons charges

ATLANTA (AP) — Rapper T.I. was sentenced Friday to one year and a day in prison after pleading guilty to federal weapons charges after he tried to buy a stash of machine guns and silencers to protect himself after his best friend was killed.

The 28-year-old rapper,

whose real name is Clifford Harris, will also pay a \$100,000 fine as part of his sentence. He was arrested in 2007 after trying to buy unregistered machine guns and silencers.

He pleaded guilty last March to the federal weapons charges but wasn't sen-

tenced until Friday as part of a deal to see if he would be successful in performing community service by speaking to youths about the pitfalls of drugs, violence and guns.

"Today, I would like to say thank you to some, and apologize to all," the rapper told U.S. District Judge Charles Pannell Jr., who handed down the sentence.

Harris went to buy the cache after his best friend, Philant Johnson, was killed following a post-performance party in Cincinnati in 2006. A man was found guilty last year in the murder case. Harris testified in that trial that he believed the bullets fired at his entourage were meant for him.

Harris ended up trying to buy weapons from undercover federal agents in a deal that was brokered through his bodyguard. He was arrested blocks from where he was to have headlined the BET Hip-Hop Awards in Atlanta hours later.

He is supposed to report

to prison sometime after May 19. He already has completed about 1,000 hours of community service and will need to complete 470 additional hours. He had faced a maximum of 10 years in prison and a \$250,000 fine for each count.

"Everything I learned was through trial and error," Harris also told the judge. "I've learned lessons in my life to put in my music so people won't make the same mistakes as I."

At Friday's hearing, former United Nations Ambassador Andrew Young spoke on Harris' behalf.

"He's been able to do the work I've been trying to accomplish for so long in stopping violence in this country," Young told the judge.

Pannell said he was pleased with Harris' progress through his community service.

"I think this has been a great experiment," the judge said. "I hope this experience can lead to other experiments

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Grammy Award-winning Atlanta rapper T.I. will serve 366 days in jail for his conviction on federal weapons charges.