

Dear Deanna!

I have been designated as the babysitter and caregiver for my younger brothers and sisters. My mother started having kids again after I turned thirteen. Now I'm in college and I can't get my homework completed, I stay tired all the time. I try to talk to my mother but she is always fussing about her boyfriends, my siblings' fathers and money. I don't want to quit college or ruin my relationship but it looks as if that's where things are heading. What can I do? --Tamyra Jackson; On-Line Reader

Dear Tamyra:

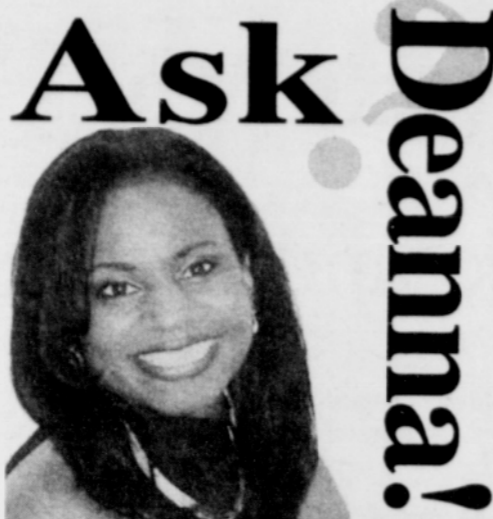
Families stick together no matter what and in your case, you have to be the glue. You may not see it, but your mother is doing the best she can with what she has. All you can do is hang in there, help the best you can and push yourself harder to become better and achieve. You should work out a schedule with your mother, college and the kids and be sure to rest and stay focused. You will get your reward in the end after you've done the right thing.

Dear Deanna!

I am fresh out of a long term relationship and I really enjoy my single life and freedom. My girlfriends all envy me and now their boyfriends are accusing them of cheating and looking for men when they hang out with me. I am not going to water down my lifestyle right now and my friends are having a hard time with this. They say that I am acting loose and as if I don't have any morals. I think they're tied down to balls and chains and are jealous. Am I wrong? --Happy and Free; On-line Reader

Dear Happy:

The men of your friends are insecure and obviously don't know their



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women as well as they think. If your behavior is affecting them, you need to cool off and slow it down a bit when you're around them. These are your friends and you need to still show some respect and regard for the differences in your relationships, or lack thereof. At the end of the day, enjoy your life and realize that everyone is responsible for their choices. Yours just appears more fun right now

Dear Deanna!

My husband is very selfish and inconsiderate. We have a healthy relationship, our finances are good and we are good parents to our children. The biggest issue in the relationship is the fact he won't help with anything. I have to do all the shopping, cleaning, planning for activities and everything to run the household and our lives. If I don't do things he'll sit like a lump on a log. If things don't get done, we argue. How can I get him to meet me in the middle? --Tired; Toledo, OH

Dear Tired:

Your husband is a lost cause if you don't have him trained or house broken by now. You should look on the bright side and be glad he has a

job, he's not abusive and he's involved with the children instead of being on a milk carton like a dead beat dad. Take an analysis of the pros and cons in your marriage and if the negatives are more than the positives seek counseling, hang in there and do the best you can to motivate your husband and get him moving.

Ask Deanna is written by Deanna M. Write Ask Deanna! at the email askdeanna1@yahoo.com or 264 S. LaCienega Blvd. Suite 1283 Beverly Hills, CA 90211. Website: www.askdeanna.com

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