**Reference Material 1**

Teeland Times

# Reality-contestant suicides: Who's to blame?

Kaul Kracker a 32-year-old who vied for “*Teeland’s Variety”* (INDTv1) has sparked another round of “who’s to blame?” media speculation. National TV breakfast show chronicled Kracker’s suicide attempt, in a segment yesterday morning that wondered whether reality TV drives contestants to tragic ends:

There are so many reality shows these days that, just statistically, some contestants will suffer from debilitating depression that drives them to such extreme measures. However, the fact that some of those shows specifically attract and seek out the kind of unstable person who keeps things unpredictable on screen only increases the chances that those folks will have trouble adjusting back to real life after “reality” ends.

We interviewed nationwide personalities to hear their thoughts on this. Here’s what they have to say.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| ***Dr. Kehn Bill, Professor of Psychology Teeland University:***  *“Emotional stress can depend on people bring into a show. Some contestants may already be vulnerable to depression or expect a show "will change others' perceptions of them or ... their ability to contend with their ordinary day-to-day existence. Therefore program producers need to have greater care for human emotions”.* | ***Executive Producers of Bonchant, Relity TV Production company:***  *“It’s very pathetic to see how* ***Evestart*** *push innocent individuals and make fun of them just to increase their view count. We at Bonchant handle these sensitive areas*  *ethically.*  *While taping a program, TV networks often require producers to hire psychological experts and counselors to be available if contestants have a breakdown. Despite, Evestar make them more aggressive and matter of laughter. This is a disgrace for the industry.”* |
| ***Professor David Benjamin of Teeland University's center for television and pop culture***  “*When you take regular people and suddenly put them in the spotlight, you never know what's going to happen," "I don't know that ... we can really point the blame at anyone unless you indict the notion of celebrity. And that eliminates these kinds of shows entirely," he said.* | |