

# CONGRESSWOMAN CARRIE MEEK RECEIVES PRESTIGIOUS AWARD; DONATES PRIZE MONEY TO COMMUNITY CENTER

Washington, D.C. — U.S. Representative Carrie P. Meek (D-FL) received the Jean Camper Cahn Award from The National Caucus and Center on Black Aged (NCBA). The award carries a \$1000 cash prize, which Congresswoman Meek donated to the James E. Scott Community Association (JESCA) of Miami. JESCA is a social service agency which operates nine multi-purpose centers for the elderly in the Miami-Dade County area. Ms. Meek received the award for her outstanding contributions toward increasing minority participation in programs and services for the aging. The award was conferred in June during NCBA's Bi-Annual Educational Conference in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

The Jean Camper Cahn Award is presented in memory of the renowned legal activist who was a champion of rights for minorities, the poor, and the

elderly. It was because of Congresswoman Meek, first term Democrat of Florida's 17th Congressional District, that the state of Florida was forced to develop a new formula for distributing funds to those elderly with the greatest economic and social needs, with particular attention to minority elderly. The holdings in the Meek v. Martinez case — which was litigated in the latter 1980's by Jean Camper Cahn and joined by NCBA — are considered the most significant in terms of elderly African Americans gaining benefits from Older Americans Act programs. Services provided under the Older Americans Act include: senior centers, "Meals on Wheels", health screening, and transportation. Utilization of these services by minorities declined during the 1980's.

In presenting the award, American Association of Retired Persons Vice President Dr.

Margaret Dixon stated, "Carrie Meek's courage and perseverance in bringing the Meek v. Martinez case has resulted in a better life for thousands of older African-Americans. Minority and low income seniors across the country have greater access to those services on which they depend so heavily." Referring to the accomplishments and diffi-

culties of her mentor and friend Jean Camper Cahn, Mrs. Meek states, "I'm willing to pay the price that this award bestows on me."

Congresswoman Meek served a dozen years in the Florida Legislature earning a reputation as a skillful advocate for the poor who promoted improved access to government

services, education and affordable housing. In 1983, she led a successful effort to create a documentary surtax on commercial real estate transfers in Dade County, resulting in the construction of more than 1,097 new affordable homes and 514 affordable rental units at a cost of approximately \$42.7 million. During her final term in the Flor-

ida Senate, Congresswoman Meek served as chair of the education subcommittee of the appropriations committee, and was responsible for allocating the state's \$9,783 billion education budget. As chair, she had a great influence on state educational policy from kindergarten through graduate school. (See *Congresswoman*, Pg 21)

## DOLLARS AND SENSE MAGAZINE SALUTES TOP BLACK BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL WOMEN



**DR. MAE C. JEMISON**  
1st Black Female Astronaut  
Mae C. Jemison, M.D., the world's first black female astronaut, who now presides over her own firm, The Jemison Group, and 11 Very Important Prestigious Women tell "How to be a Successful Black Woman in Corporate America" in July 1993 annual Women's issue of *Dol-*

lars & Sense magazine.

In addition, this issue highlights the achievements of 60 of America's Best and Brightest Business and Professional Woman of 1993 — corporate officers, administrators/coordinators, directors/managers and entrepreneurs — and acknowledges the contributions of "Women in Medicine," profiling seven outstanding female practitioners.

Premiering also in the July issue is the magazine's newest column, the "Reynolds Washington Report," featuring commentary by noted journalist

Barbara Reynolds, who in a separate article title "Norplant: Birth Control or Genocide," examines the social and health-related issues of this controversial new contraceptive.

Continuing it's focus on "The Year Of Our Children," D&S presents the viewpoints of Marvin Wright Edelman, founder/president of the Children's Defense Fund and coordinator of the Black Community Crusade for Children, which announced it's formation this year, as well as corporate programs that benefit young people.

other topics covered include:

"Summertime Best Wheels to Buy," a sampling of the season's popular models, together with useful information on credit cards offered by automakers. In "Arts and Entertainment" actress Cynda Williams is interviewed, while recording artist Regina Belle is "On the Fastrak."

Copies of Dollars & Sense are available at Waldenbooks, B. Dalton, community bookstores and select newsstands as well as from National Publications Sales Agency Inc., 1610 E. 79th Street, Chicago, IL 60649. For further information, call 312/375-6800.

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## FOR THE LADIES IS HONESTY THE BEST POLICY?

**By Bonita H. Armstrong**  
We've all heard this saying, "Honesty is the best policy." How many of us are honest all the time? How many times have we sacrificed honesty for the sake of another persons feelings or to save face? All this is done, of course, with the best intentions. So, is honesty really the best policy?

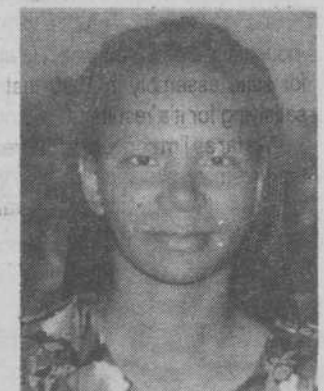
First let me say that I am not advocating lying. Certainly, the best alternative to lying is telling the truth. But, a more suitable compromise would be good-old fashioned diplomacy.

I've come to discover that human beings are fragile crea-

tures. Most of us are far too sensitive to handle the hard truth, especially about ourselves. And, most of us can not handle the word "No" when we call upon favors or requests from others. Therefore, we leave our family, friends, co-workers, significant others to tip-toe around our fragilities. Which may feel good to us, but leaves a weight on those doing the tipping.

So, it becomes necessary sometimes to say "yes" when we want to say "no", or to sugarcoat the real truth about how we feel about people or situations to protect the feelings of others.

However, being honest with



**BONITA ARMSTRONG**  
others doesn't mean completely ignoring that person's feelings and stepping all over their emotions. We should not take an attitude that our feelings are the only ones that are important. No one on earth is an island and we should be as sensitive to others as we want them to be to us.

There needs to be change somewhere. We need to learn how to handle the truth, no matter how devastated it may leave us, and we need to learn how to be more diplomatic in our revelations of truth to our counterparts.

**If You're Dabbling In Drugs... You Could Be Dabbling With Your Life.**

Skin popping, on occasion, seems a lot safer than mainlining. Right? You ask yourself: What can happen? Well, a lot can happen. That's because there's a new game in town. It's called AIDS. So far there are no winners. If you share needles, you're at risk. All it takes is one exposure to the AIDS virus and you've just dabbled your life away.

For more information about AIDS, call 1-800-842-AIDS. Nevada AIDS Hotline

**AMERICA RESPONDS TO AIDS**

This is a message from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control.

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by Ms. Ronnie Coleman

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