

FOR THE LADIES

THE STATE OF EDUCATION IN AMERICA

By Bonita Armstrong

My mother was - and still is - a strong advocate for the education of children. She was president of our school's PTA, was actively involved in our education, and always pushed education as a way to meeting your goals and aspirations.

As a result of her inspiration and example, many of my siblings are college graduates and pursuing professional careers. Many other mothers have had the same influence on their children and for it ... they are better, well-rounded people.

And even though more and more people are getting educations and pursuing their dreams ... still many are left behind for many reasons. One of which would be the poor state of education in America.

It's not our teachers who are to blame. They are wonderful ... doing the best they can with the resources they have. It's not the students who are to blame ... they show up at over crowded



BONITA ARMSTRONG

classrooms and sometimes fall between the cracks because the class is just too large. It's not the administrators' fault ... they have a budget to work with and do a pretty good job with what they have. The parents do everything they can do ... just as my mother did.

The fault with the education system in America today lies with state and national government. How can we expect to have top-notch school systems with below standard budgets? How can we expect our teachers to re-

main in a profession that underpays them and takes advantage of their hard-earned education? Why is it that our government can provide billions upon billions of dollars to fund wars, weapons, and Washington D.C. bureaucrats, and leave parents and teachers to sell cakes and cookies to buy computers and library books?

I find this whole situation ludicrous. I hear a lot of talk about America being the greatest country on the face of the earth ... and I believe it is. But, I also believe it could be greater and stronger if the government turned more of its efforts toward educating its children. Why is it that in a country as great as this ... its children ... its future ... is the last on the list of priorities along with the homeless, the poor, the unemployed, and minorities.

GO, SEE AND ACT CHURCH WOMEN UNITED TO SPONSOR ANNUAL WORLD DAY OF PRAYER SERVICE

Women throughout the Las Vegas area will gather at Christ Episcopal Church, Maryland Parkway at St. Louis, on Saturday, March 5, 1994, at 9:30 a.m. in observance of the annual World Day of Prayer service, sponsored by Church Women United of Las Vegas.

This year's service, part of global celebration observed by Christian communities throughout the world, has been prepared by Christian women in Palestine and explores the theme Go, SEE, AND ACT.

The 1994 service, based on the story of Christ's passion and resurrection as told in the Gospels of Luke and Mark, focuses on the experiences of women living in the occupied territories of the West Bank of Gaza. The authors — Lutheran, Episcopalian, Catholic, and Orthodox

Christian women who identify themselves as Palestinians — share their personal stories while calling upon all people to work toward reconciliation and justice.

There will be refreshments before and after the worship service, and a display of Palestinian items will be available. Childcare will be provided at the church during the service.

While acknowledging the inherent sensitivity of the political situation in the Middle East, participating World Day of Prayer communities see the service as an opportunity to engage in further study and dialogue while working toward a lasting peace.

Founded in 1887 by Mary Ellen James, World Day of Prayer calls upon participating communities to join in "informed prayer and prayerful action," confessing "individual and na-

tional sins with offerings that fitly express the contrition." Offerings received from World Day of Prayer participants in the United States help support Church Women United — the official sponsor of World Day of Prayer in the United States — in its national and international witness.

Among the programs supported is CWU's Intercontinental Grant fund, which provides financial assistance to projects benefitting women and children worldwide.

Additional resource materials, and background information on the 1994 World Day of Prayer, may be obtained from Areanna Christie (871-0925) or by contacting the national offices of Church Women United at 475 Riverside Drive, Room 812, New York, NY 10115 (212) 870-2347.

NO NONSENSE WOMAN DONATES \$10,000 TO NO NONSENSE SCHOOL

NEW YORK, NY - What do a popular talk show host and a school for underprivileged children have in common? According to the recently-released results of the No Nonsense American Woman of the Year Poll, it's a non nonsense approach to life!

It was announced recently by the Council of Women's Issues, Oprah Winfrey was voted No Nonsense American Woman of the Year. Ms. Winfrey will donate her \$10,000 award to Providence St. Mel, a self-described "no nonsense school with a mandate to break the generational cycle of poverty and welfare through education." The Chicago-based, 100% African-American institution recently received a \$1,000,000 donation from Ms. Winfrey as well.

Oprah Winfrey was one of the seven nominees for the No Nonsense American Woman of the Year Award announced in PEOPLE Magazine. Readers were asked to call in and vote for their favorite nominee. Other nominees were Jane Alexander,



OPRAH WINFREY

Jeanne Moutoussamy-Ashe, Elizabeth Dole, Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Dr. Bernadine Healy, and Lauren Hutton. Each will receive a \$1,000 donation in her name to Habitat for Humanity, an organization that helps young, low income families obtain affordable housing.

No Nonsense pantyhose began recognizing inspirational women with its "Bio" Award in March of 1992. Past recipients include Tina Turner, Texas Governor Ann Richards, and Barbara Striesand.

(See No-Nonsense, Page 28)

HEART-TO-HEART GIFTS: SILK BOXERS



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