

FOR THE LADIES UNCONDITIONAL LOVE

By Bonita Armstrong

Older people and babies have the right idea about love. I like to call those types of love winter love and springtime love.

Babies love unconditionally. You've seen a baby's face light up when he looks up and sees his mother. A big, broad, toothless smile covers his face. He gets excited and starts kicking and fanning his arms and gurgling happily.

I can remember getting up early in the morning in a foul mood when my daughter was an infant. I would walk through the house grumbling and complaining, until I walked into my daughter's room. She would be lying there in her crib, looking up and quietly playing. When she saw me looking down on her, she would begin smiling and giggling. Her apparent joy at seeing me made me feel 100 percent better. I hadn't done anything special to deserve this warm welcome, except be her mother and the object of her unconditional love. I didn't have to buy her any \$100 sneakers or make a fancy breakfast. I didn't have to do any favors for her or invite her to the right party. I didn't even have to drive the right kind of car or live in the right zip code. She loved me and for no other reason except I was her mother.

I've observed people who are older and wiser, and they too have learned what love is all about. Take for example, a couple that has been married for 50 years. By this time they are



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probably in their 70's and no longer the spry youngsters they were when they first met. They are worn with age and covered with wrinkles. Physical attraction is no longer on the top of their list. They love each other's spirit and mind. They respect each other and each gives the other space and individuality. They appreciate each other for the hardships and disappointments they've encountered over the years. They understand that being together is the most important thing ... not the mortgage, or money, or sex. They love each other unconditionally.

As human beings, this is the kind of love we crave. Unconditional love. We want to be loved not because of but in spite of. We want to be cherished, treasured and valued by other human beings.

Unfortunately, somewhere between infancy and old age, we often forget what unconditional love is all about. We may need to take some lessons from our babies and our elders. They've got the right idea about love.

UNLV WOMEN'S STUDIES COLLOQUIUM SET FOR MARCH 21-24, 1994

"Revolution in Science? Women's Perspectives" will be the topic of the fifth annual women's studies colloquium March 21-24 at UNLV.

Sandra Harding, a nationally known feminist philosopher of science, will deliver the keynote speech, "Feminism and Science: New Issues, Challenges, Opportunities," at 7:30 p.m. March 21 in the lobby of UNLV's Artemus W. Ham Concert Hall. A reception will follow the talk.

All the colloquium events are free and open to the public. An interpreter for the hearing impaired will be present at all events. The colloquium is sponsored by the UNLV women's studies program.

"It is a real coup to get Sandra Harding here," said Ellen Cronan Rose, director of the UNLV women's studies program. "She is the foremost feminist philosopher of science in the United States, if not in the world."

Harding, a professor of phi-

losophy at the University of Delaware and an adjunct professor of philosophy and women's studies at UCLA, is the author or editor of several books. Among her works are "Whose Science? Whose Knowledge? Thinking from Women's Lives," the award-winning "The Science Question in Feminism," and the soon-to-be-published "The 'Racial' Economy of Science: Toward a Democratic Future."

Other colloquium events include:

* A presentation by Sue V. Rosser, director of women's studies and professor of family and preventive medicine at the University of South Carolina, Columbia, on the topic "Gender Bias in Health Research and the Difference It Makes." She will speak at 7:30 p.m. March 22 in the Beam Engineering Complex, Room A-107.

Rosser has lectured extensively on relating feminism and women's studies to science and (See Women's Studies, Pg 24)

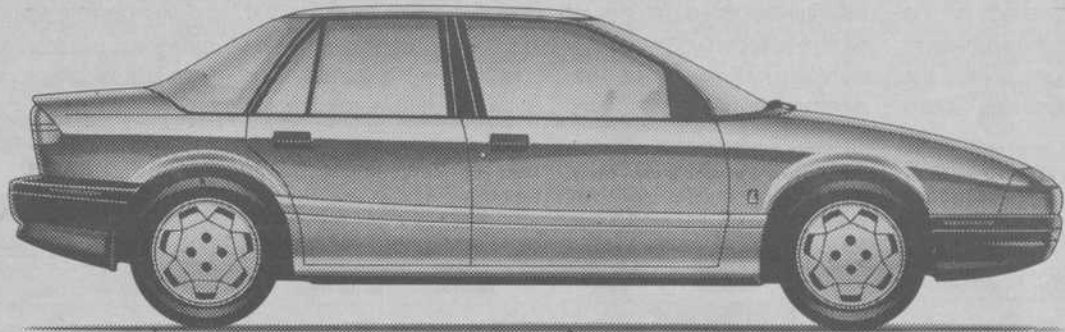
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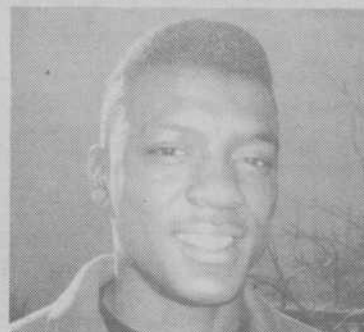
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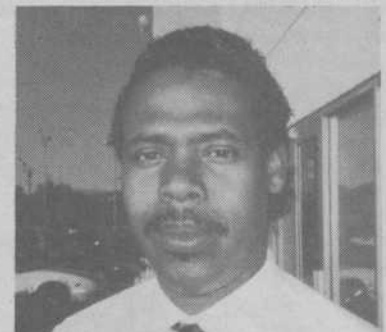
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