

FOR THE LADIES

FACING THE TRUTH

By Bonita Armstrong

It is sometimes difficult to be totally honest in certain situations. Many times, we guard the truth to spare the feelings of others or to spare ourselves criticism and humiliation. It is very rare that we find people who are totally honest in every situation that is presented. But, even that is not the most difficult truth many of us face.

The most difficult truth many of us face is the truth that lies within us. We look ourselves in the mirror day after day, but how many of us are truly honest with ourselves...about ourselves? How many of us can look ourselves square in the eye and meet our weaknesses and faults head on?

How many of us can be



BONITA ARMSTRONG

honestly criticized without becoming defensive?

Many times we make excuses for our downfalls. Instead of facing the reality of us, and trying to make ourselves better, we justify the shortcomings that

we all have by saying it's not as bad as having this certain problem or that certain problem, or I'm not as bad as this particular person. We constantly make excuses for being less than we were meant to be.

Facing the truth about oneself may be the toughest truth anyone may ever face. The phrase "the truth hurts" is accurate and precise.

When we face truths about ourselves, especially unpleasant truths, we may feel a certain pain inside. Not sharp or piercing as a knife wound, but just as painful. We must learn to face all truths about ourselves, not just the ones that we are happy with, but also those that are unpleasant and painful for us to bear.

DO BLACK WOMEN HATE BLACK MEN?

"Although racism is destruction to black people in America, it falls far short of the destruction caused by the conflict between today's black woman and black man," contends author and psychologist A.L. REYNOLDS, III in his latest book entitled, **Do Black Women Hate Black Men?** (Hastings House, \$18.95 cloth, Pub date: July 10, 1994) with a foreword by Danna Wood, Columbia University School of Social Work.

The black male in American society is an endangered species and strong black families are decreasing to dangerous levels. In this provocative new book, author A.L. Reynolds frankly addresses such questions as: Why are black communities filled with "boys" in their 20s, 30s, and 40s? How did this evolve? Why are black women furious with black men? Why are there so many destructive behaviors in black male and female relationships that are contributing so forcefully to the disintegration of the black community? What is preventing the rise of an economically sound black America? How can the black community — men and women — restore the black

family unit?

Do Black Women Hate Black Men? relates how the roots of African American community problems lies within the battle between the genders. Drawing from case histories selected from over 300 interviews with black men and women across America, psychologist A.L. Reynolds presents their testimonies to demonstrate and examine the destructive dynamics of separation, hostility and anguish that is thriving today in relationships of African American men and women.

According to Reynolds, strong relationships existed between black men and women until the 1950's; it was the major factor in preventing racism from destroying the black community. World War II and post war opportunities allowed black women to get higher education and better paying jobs — but the self-esteem of black men began to erode.

For A.L. Reynolds, the message is clear and simple; the African American community must confront the enemy within and not blame others, but accept responsibility for its behaviors. Black males must take

responsibility for their actions and black women must be willing to "go to war" in support of responsible black men.

Reynolds suggests some specific solutions based on this premise that healing must take place from within the basic singular relationships between men and women. The book includes a Black Man's Survival Kit which enumerates specific techniques for the black male to develop self awareness, build self esteem and take pride in his black heritage. The author also enumerates three types of programs — mentoring, rites of passage and manhood development — that the African American community must implement to restore the family unit and to produce strong black leaders once again.

A.L. Reynolds is an educator, psychologist and entrepreneur who has been involved in clinical counseling, community action and business development for more than twenty five years. He wrote this book to

"provoke self awareness and issue a call for action" by men and women of the African American community. He resides near Chicago.

Do Black Women Hate Black Men?

By A.L. Reynolds, III
Foreword By Danna Woods,
Columbia University School of Social Work

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CHICAGO WOMAN RECEIVES TOP WOMEN'S AWARD FROM LABOR ORGANIZATION

The National Women's Committee of the Coalition of Black Trade Unionists (CBTU) recently gave its highest honor, the Addie L. Wyatt Award, to a retired Chicago union activist, Eunetta Pierce.

Pierce received the award at CBTU's 12th Annual Women's Conference, a one-day event that drew more than 800 activists, making it the largest national gathering of black working women. The keynote speaker was Lottie Schackelford, vice-chair of the National Democratic Committee and former mayor of Little Rock, Arkansas.

Ms. Pierce, who was a delegate to CRTU's founding convention in 1972, was praised for her commitment to the CBTU, her local union (Local 500P/United Food and Commercial Workers Union), and to her community.

In 1944, Eunetta Pierce entered the work

force in the meat packing industry, joining what was then the United Packinghouse Workers Union of America (UPWA), AFL-CIO. She served as a member of local and international committees, including as shop steward, executive board member, recording secretary, vice president (Local 28, UPWA), president (Local 28, UPWA), and vice president (Local 500P/UFCW), which is one of the largest locals with African-American leadership in Chicago.

In 1948, Ms. Pierce helped to organize the stockyards for better working conditions. She subsequently focused her efforts on the school crisis, public accommodations, and voter registration. She played an active role in the "Committee to Elect a Black Mayor" in Chicago, which led to the nomination and election of Harold Washington.

(See Women's Award, Page 22)

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