



FOR THE LADIES

Destructive Behavior



BONITA ARMSTRONG

By Bonita H. Armstrong

Many times we have opportunities to teach, inspire and guide another person toward a better quality of life. These opportunities may present themselves in such subtle ways that we overlook them and discount them as the gifts that they really are. Therefore, instead of taking advantage of the gift of teaching, we enable others into remaining in a destructive way of life by accepting negative behavior as their choice.

We may hand out dollar bills

to a drug addict on the street when he tells us he wants to buy food, but in reality we know he doesn't want to eat. We overlook the black-eyes of an abused wife and never give her the number to the domestic violence hotline. We may loan money to a compulsive gambler. We give cigarette money to a pack-a-day smoker and then complain about how much they smoke. There are many ways that we enable others and therefore ourselves become abused by the very people we think we are helping.

Instead of giving money to that street person, offer to buy them food. If he's really hungry, he'll accept. Instead of pretending we don't see the bruises of an abused wife, give

her the information she needs to seek help. Then the choice is hers. If a loved-one asks you to buy cigarettes when you know he is abusing them, simply refuse. Don't drink with an alcoholic for any reason. Don't give money to a gambler, even if he says he needs to pay his rent.

At some point these people need to bottom out. They need to fall down before they can pick themselves up. We're not helping them by aiding them in their behavior. We are, in fact, hurting them and being abused by them. It's time for us to break the cycle of enabling destructive behavior. Let us instead offer the person what they really need ... counseling, guidance and tools for a better life.

WOMAN OF THE YEAR AWARD

The Las Vegas Business and Professional Women's Club is accepting nominations for Women of the Year. Candidates will be selected based on outstanding career efforts, assistance to other women in their career advancements and community service. Deadline for nominations is September 25, 1995. Nominations should be given to President Barbara Crowell at (702) 431-5677.

Here She Is...



Little Miss African America, nine-year-old LaTanya Fisher, is this year's pageant winner for the Third Annual Little Miss African American Scholarship pageant. Held at the Universal Sheraton Hotel in Universal City, CA, the pageant once again provided a celebrity studded, educational vehicle for over 60 young misses. Pictured left to right are first row, winner LaTanya Fischer; second row, mistress of ceremony, Sallie Richardson; pageant host, Dawnn Lewis; pageant creator/producer and actress Lisa Ruffin; pageant host, Suzanne Douglas.

Tenth Annual Women Of Achievement Awards Banquet

An especially elegant evening is planned to honor women judged to be outstanding in their professions. The Las Vegas Chamber of Commerce will host the Tenth Annual Women of Achievement Awards banquet on Saturday, September 16th, at 6:00 p.m. at the Stardust Hotel Ballroom.

The awards will recognize women who have made significant contributions to their profession and the Southern Nevada community. Selection of recipients is determined by a panel of judges who will consider each nominee's contribution to the advancement of women.

Award categories include art, banking-financial services, business, education, government and politics, health

care, hotel-resorts, legal, media, non-profit, real estate and land development, science, tourism-travel, and volunteerism.

Cost for the dinner is \$56 per person; \$500 for a table of ten. R.S.V.P. deadline is Wednesday, September 13th. For reservations or more information, call the Chamber at 641-LVCC (5822).

Dedicated to protecting and enhancing the economic well-being of Southern Nevada, the Las Vegas Chamber of Commerce is a service organization which provides significant value to its members by offering them opportunities to build their businesses through many ongoing programs and activities.

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