



By Carole B. Ricks

# Carole's Corner...

## What Makes People Gossip And Criticize Other People?

Dear Carole:

What makes people gossip and criticize other people? I am fed up with hearing gossip. There is gossip in the church, gossip in social clubs, sororities, civic groups and in the neighborhood. Now don't get me wrong. I'm not trying to be self-righteous. But I try very hard not to talk about other people. What can I do to make people stop telling me gossip?

G.A.

Dear G.A.:

Stop listening. If you act disinterested people who tell you gossip will go elsewhere to talk. People who gossip and spread rumors usually don't have enough constructive activities to occupy their time and their mind.

Carole

Dear Carole:

My children fight like cats and dogs. I have to stop their arguments all the time. Either the two older ones gang up against the two younger ones, or else it's the girls against the boys. They aren't exactly babies anymore (ages 13, 11, 9 and 8), so they should know better. What makes brothers and sisters fight so much? What can I do to make them fight less?

Norma

Dear Norma:

There are two things you can do to help them fight less. First, realize that they will disagree. Therefore, you should not always step in and referee their arguments. Give them some ground rules to follow such as, no hitting. Then let them resolve their own differences as often as possible. Second, try to spend some one-on-one time with each child. Children will compete for parents' attention. Share a chore. Go for a walk together.

In a family where there is more than one child, each child wants to be treated as "number one."

If you interfere less in their conflicts and give some special attention to each child, there may be fewer fights.

Carole

**Editor's Note:** Carole B. Ricks, an M.S.W., A.C.S.W. social worker has a private practice in Charlotte as a counselor. She is featured in Carole's Corner Mondays and Thursdays at 7:30 and 9:30 a.m. on WPEG radio 98 FM. If you have personal adjustment, parent-child or marriage problems that concern you, write:

Carole's Corner  
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## Jim Long Proposes Emergency Response Unit

Jim Long, leading Democratic candidate for Insurance Commissioner, this week, proposed that an "Emergency Response Unit" (ERU) be established within the Department of Insurance to assist victims of disasters. Long, who had been campaigning in eastern North Carolina when last week's devastating tornados and storms hit, said he was shocked by the degree of destruction he found when he returned to the area this week.

Long suggested that not only could such a unit be deployed to assist individuals in the aftermath of tornados but also after hurricanes, floods, severe crop damage, droughts, and freak accidents like the recent train derailment in Union County and major industrial accidents like three Mile Island.

"We were fortunate that the area was made eligible for federal relief... FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Administration) does a fine job, as do our own state emergency folks. Yet such events do not always result in designation for federal assistance," said Long.

Long noted that, "Most (insurance) companies and adjusters respond superbly during these periods. In addition, proven procedures already exist within FEMA and the Federal Insurance Administration." Long, however, speculated that some additional information assistance, ombudsmen, and backup claims assistance functions may be needed.

Long suggested that the emergency response unit consist of a designated field

team, as well as a support unit within the Department, which could be sent to the troubled area within the first 12 to 24 hours to work cooperatively with other state and federal personnel, as well as company representatives, insurance adjusters, claims personnel, etc., to assure prompt, fair, and full response to the needs of individuals during such times of distress and suffering.

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