

Getting Along



Dr. James P. Comer

Dr. Alvin F. Poussaint

[Alvin F. Poussaint and with boys, she may have dent to the police because men are usually given long James P. Comer are generalized the negative she said that the police are prison sentences and often psychiatrists and the feelings that she has to- not interested when a black a death sentence. authors of the book "Black ward her father and now woman gets raped and that Child Care." Dr. Poussaint extends them toward all they don't do anything justice has put black is associate professor of black men. She may indeed about it. With her attitude, psychiatry and associate wonder if they can be rapists will be running being relatively safe dean for student affairs at rusted or if they will aban- around loose in the gets for the white or black Harvard Medical School. don her again. Your neighborhood and all of us rapist. Black women are Dr. Comer is professor of daughter's hostile behavior child psychiatry and asso- allows her to put distance clate dean for student between your black male something about it? mairs at Yale University friends and herself. This School of Medicine.

Dear Doctors: My 12 year liking a black male herself. men. About six months daughter feels threatended shared by black women after my daughter was by your male friends who who have been raped. divorced. He moved to away from her. In other said that when they reanother city and has not words, she may fear that if had any contact with his you become romantically daughter since then. Mr involved with one of these

disrespect black men. to discourage you from When I have my male such relationships.

Dear J.R.: There several his race. father has not accepted the fears. role of father, he has indeed abandoned her. So she is hurt and resentful.

thinking about her future refused to report the inci-

could mean she is afraid of

old daughter seems to re- Another matter to consent men, particularly black sider is whether your born, my husband and I got she feels will take YOU ex-husband and I are black. men, she will be left out or she will become second in have never said any- your life. Therefore, in her anding to make my daughter own way, she may be trying

friends over to the house. Her statement, "Black she is often hostile. She men ain't no good," may once said, "Black men ain't just be a smoke screen. no good," and we got into a Your daughter is likely to do. big fight. What do you become resentful of any man that you become in-

your daughter may be har- that you sit down and have Some black men feel the boring long-standing a long talk with your same way because they are feelings of rejection and daughter, not only about not pursued by law enabandonment. Since her her feelings but also her forcers when they rape

Now that she is reaching old neighbor was recently adolescence and probably raped by a black man. She When caught, black men

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can I convince her to do the rate that white women

M.L., Indiana

Dear M.L.: Your neighbor is echoing an attitude that is commonly

Many black women have ported the rape to the police, the police seemed either indifferent or they demeaning comments which implied that the women were not raped at all. White women experience similar encounters when reporting incidents of rape to the police, but to a much lesser degree than black women

Historically, black women were entirely un-J.R., Chicago terested in, regardless of protected and white men could rape them without matters to consider. First, This situation demands any fear of punishment. black women.

> On the other hand, if they rape a white woman, Dear Doctors: My 21 year the authorities respond usually in heavy pursuit. who have raped white wo-

This double standard of

women in a position of will be endangered. How raped at three to four times

are sexually assaulted.

But I agree with you. If the black community wants to eliminate rapists, black women must report the incidents and demand that the criminals be pursued. Neighborhood organizations must participate in this effort so that individual victims do not feel they are fighting alone.

In most cities there are rape crisis centers, staffed by women who are sensitive and helpful to women who have been raped. Perhaps you can suggest that your neighbor go to such a center. If you offer to accompany her, you may be giving her the support that she needs to follow

If there is no rape crisis center in your community to which minority women have easy access, get in touch with a local rights group so that you can

Dr. Poussaint (If you have any questions for the doctors, send your letter to "Getting Along," care of this news-

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Richard "Dick" Barnes is a local businessman and new in politics. However, as one of twelve children raised on a farm, he is not new to hard work. He has worked with Senior Citizens, Boy Scouts, the physically and mentally handicapped, and children with learning disabilities. A past president of the Stratford Kiwanis Club, he was instrumental in chartering the second all-girl "Circle K" in the nation at Salem College. He is a 32 Degree Mason, a Shriner, and a member of the American Legion.

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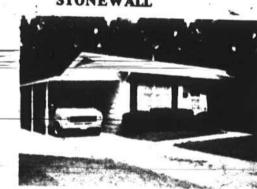
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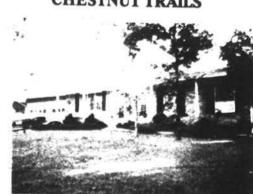


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