

By Carole B. Ricks



Carole

# Carole's Corner...

## "My Husband Won't Listen To Me"

Dear Carole:

My mother-in-law is coming to live with us. I don't agree with this decision, but my husband won't listen to me.

During the past five years she has lived with my husband's brother and his wife. Well, I want to tell you that their marriage almost broke up because she interfered in everything. She has this way of acting helpless, pitiful and sweet but demanding, all at the same time. When you get right down to it, she is a real B—! She is bossy and she gets angry if she can't have her own way. Then everybody gives in to her.

Even though she hasn't moved in yet, I already feel like I've been pushed out of my own home. This whole thing is so unfair to me. Why can't my husband see that his mother may do the same thing to us that she did to my brother-in-law?

V.L.

Dear V.L.:

Your mother-in-law can only do, in your home, what you and your husband allow her to do. It is unfortunate that you and your husband have already allowed your mother-in-law to come in between the two of you even before she has moved in. It is also unfortunate that you are experiencing tension and stress now about an event that has not yet happened.

Open communication is really important between you and your husband. Talk with your husband about how you feel. Talk about other choices of arrangements. Is it absolutely necessary for your mother-in-law to live with you? If she is a senior citizen, there are many senior citizen housing developments for which she may qualify. There, she could have friendships and activities with people her own age. She could still share some family life with you and your husband, but she would have less time and energy to interfere.

On the other hand, if you and your husband decide that she can live with you, you must all work together to set some ground rules. Differences in feelings and

attitudes will happen in any home. Even with those differences though, there can be peace. However, the existence of two generations or more living under one roof is one of the greatest challenges that any family can experience.

Carole

Dear Carole:

One of my neighbors really bothers me. She always seems to have it all together. I guess you could say she is pretty. She's not fat. She has a good job. She goes to church. Her house is always straight. She doesn't have a problem husband or problem children. She really has it all. Why do some people have everything while other people, like me, have nothing?

T.E.

Dear T.E.:

Although you have not said the word, jealous, the ideas you express seem to show that you may be feeling jealous.

You have spent a lot of time measuring what your neighbor has and watching what your neighbor does. Maybe you should spend equal time making changes in your own life. Changes that you make can help you do and have things that you admire in your neighbor.

You are on the outside (of your neighbor's life) looking in. You have no way of knowing that your neighbor's life is problem-free. One of the best cures for jealousy is to set self-improvement goals. Spend less time watching what other people have accomplished and start reaching for your own goals.

Carole

... Editor's Note: Carole B. Ricks is an M.S.W., A.C.S.W. social worker. She has a private practice in Charlotte, N.C., as a counselor. If you have personal adjustment, parent-child or marriage problems that concern you, write:

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## Juvenile Diabetes Foundation

### Roast Scheduled For April 30

The fifth annual Juvenile Diabetes Foundation Roast will be held April 30 at the Sheraton Center, beginning at 6:30 p.m.

Being roasted on that evening will be Charlie "Choo Choo" Justice, a former Washington Redskins football player.

Art Weiner, a former UNC teammate of Justice's; William Friday, UNC-CH president, and Bill Dudley, a former teammate of Charlie's on the Washington Redskins team.

The evening will include, aside from the roast, a cocktail hour and dinner. Souvenir booklets will be distributed to all of the guests and will be available for autographing by Justice. Personal items from Justice's football collection will be auctioned and given away as door prizes. Also,

a limited number of copies of "Choo-Choo: the Charlie Justice Story."

Tickets for the roast are

\$30. The public is cordially invited to attend. Call 568-4380 for tickets or information.

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