

By Harriett Muhammad

Dear Harriett: I have five children from my first husband who died about seven years ago. Since then, I remarried and had two children by my second husband. We didn't get along well because he used to drink a lot and was very undependable.

"WELL, MY teenage sons from my first marriage have been giving me a lot of trouble. They keep telling me that they don't want my husband in the house — that he'll do us like he did before.

Since his return, (he's been back a month) my boys have been giving me a lot of lip — one of them even seems to be making fun of me when I try to discipline him. They do things to upset me and then I start hollering at them.

This really upsets my husband and he said the other day that he hates to come home because he can't get any rest between me and the kids keeping up such a fuss. I try not to holler at them, but when I tell them to do something and get no response then I find myself hollering automatically.

ALSO, SINCE he returned, my husband and I have had a series of arguments over money matters. He gripes a lot over having to spend so much money. I get an O.A. S.D.I. check every month for myself and my first five children and I get the feeling that he thinks I should make that do for them so that he can have his own money to do with as he pleases.

We just seem to have one argument after another and I'm getting very emotionally upset. My present husband has improved a lot and doesn't drink anymore and is really treating me better, but my sons (14 & 15) still make me miserable and I sometimes feel I'll have to ask my husband to leave just to keep them from running away like they are threatening to do.

What can I do to help change things before I lose my mind?
Mrs. C. S. Milwaukee, Wisc.

DEAR MRS. C. S.: There is nothing as valuable as the ability to communicate with one another in order to clear the air and understand each other more. I suggest you arrange with your husband to have a family pow-pow and have them once a week until the situation improves.

Let everyone involved express his opinion and talk out their grievances. You could set the pace by telling your faults — like your hollering and ask your sons and husband how does this affect them and why you feel it's necessary for you to holler.

YOUR SONS are not far

from manhood now and it's very possible that you will have to develop a new way of disciplining them and stop hollering at them expecting them to jump at your first command like they used to do. It may be that they intend to do what you asked but are in the middle of a project and would want to finish this first. You must give them more consideration if you want to continue being considered by them.

Ask your sons if they will try to be more understanding and give their step-father a chance to prove that he can be much better than he used to be.

AS FOR the finance, your husband should be informed if he doesn't already know, that he is legally responsible for the entire family. He shouldn't think that he can care for himself first and the rest last. All monies should be available to all, with one person in charge of expenditures so as to have better control over what is spent.

He should also play a more active role in disciplining your teenagers as women are known to have much trouble in handling teenage boys without a man to help. He takes care of them and has a right to discipline them.

Better relationships grow with time and repetition. Continue to work with your problems regularly and consistently.

Something on your mind? Write and tell me about it.

Harriett Muhammad
P. O. Box 8382
Los Angeles, Calif. 90008

Hawaiians Disappear

HONOLULU — There are only about 500 "pure Hawaiians" left in the islands, according to a survey by the Hawaii Civic Clubs Association.

When Capt. James Cook discovered the island in 1778, he estimated there were 300,000 Hawaiians. Their blood has been mixed by intermarriage.

SOUTH PARK

The Best In Bakery

Made From Choice

CAKES, PIES, BREADS
FRESH-BAKED DAILY

370 E. 71st ST.

FOR DELIVERY
CALL PH