



# NONA'S NOTES

“Saving Rural America”

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## W.W.W. – Willing, Working, Women



In this day of all of our w.w.w.s, be it [www.org](http://www.org), [www.net](http://www.net), [www.com](http://www.com) or what ever, we tend to leave out a very important w.w.w. When is the last time anyone has positively recognized a very viable factor of our lives, w.w.w. being willing, working women? Now men, kudos are due to you, but now I know you've uttered the words, “ Behind every man there's a woman.” But think about it; that

works. The brunt of your strength or force is behind, not in front. All of your wind force is from behind. Force from behind is what makes things go forward!

Now let's face it ladies, some of us may feel that the above quote is detrimental, but now we know that a cake is only as good as its ingredients. There's nothing wrong with being the wind beneath our men's wings. Wind is what keeps them airborne. Who but a willing woman can keep a family afloat with little or nothing? Willing is a key word here because we have to have the will to make things work. Along with will comes strength and creativity. We have the will to provide for our families no matter how scarce

our financial aid is. This will is the cornerstone of our faith. Willing women believe and that belief makes us able. How well do we perform tasks that we don't do wholeheartedly?

Providing for family is only the first step. Like a pebble dropped into a pond, this matriarchal attitude spreads from the home to the community. The ripples spread on from the community to the church, which is another “home”. From there on to your place of employment and so forth and so on. We've always heard about the strong, Black woman. Yes, we are that because we know that we have to do what we have to do. We don't strive to be super heroes, divas.

## COLOR HIM FATHER

What is a father? It's like asking what constitutes “love”. Can fatherhood be defined? Do biological ties take precedence over nature? All of these questions come with a multitude of answers. Society would have us to believe that the ideal home is the “Leave It to Beaver” stereotype. What we need to keep in mind is that that was television, and we live in the real world. A two-parent home, of course, can be a plus. But, if there is confusion and no love there, the atmosphere is not beneficial to anyone. Not every male is born to be a father just as not every female is born to be a mother. Each

situation, I believe, has it's own customized answer.

A father is the one who cares. Some have to care from afar. Not everyone is fortunate enough (smile) to have that “hands on” experience. A father gives of himself, not always from his pocket. A father can take you to the fair and arrange for someone to ride with you even though the rides make him sick. A father does his best to prepare you to make it in this cruel, hard world where he knows that once you get out there on your own, you are out of his jurisdiction. A father steps up to the plate and not only accepts responsibility, but dictates to himself what it takes to be responsible. He makes it possible to make his loved ones his top priority,

not himself. A father can be sensitive enough to read Bambi to with you but strong enough to still say “no” to his little princess even though she's shedding those big crocodile tears. The list can go on and on, needless to say. Fatherhood does not come with an instruction manual, and even if it did, who would supply the troubleshooting solutions, mom?

As I told my son, who is a single father, when you can tell yourself, someone who you can't lie to, that you have done your best to your knowledge, then take out your crayons and color yourself “FATHER”! Happy Father's Day to all of you deserving fathers, grandfathers, uncles, brothers and any other male who may be fulfilling fatherly obligations!

## WHAT DETERMINES BEING "BLACK" ?

I hadn't heard it in quite a while (I'm dating myself now!) but, years ago there was a saying, "Am I Black enough for you?" Lately, since Barack Obama has announced his candidacy, the question has resurfaced. It's being said that he's not Black enough.

How do you determine being Black enough? What constitutes being Black? Is it the country that you come from (are born in)? Can it be the color of your skin? How about your culture, which includes the way you act and live? Does at least one of your parents have to be certified as black on your birth certificate? If so, how did they get that way? And as if this enigma is not puzzling enough, what omniscient entity decides the answer? From where does their authority come?

Of course, I don't have the answers to these potent brain-teasers. In my modest opinion, no one has. I bounced these thoughts off a good friend of mine. She raised what I feel may be a qualifying response. Jan says that society makes the call; society bestows these descriptive adjectives then attitudes are adjusted to please. For example, who termed the inhabitants of the New World as "Indians"? We know now that that was a big mistake. Though now, in order to be politically correct, we say "Native Americans", "Indians" is the more commonly used term.

We know that it is not the country you are born in. White Africans have dominated Black Africans for

years. As for the color of your skin, who has not heard of Blacks that have "passed" for White? If a Caucasian child is raised by a Black family and soaks up the culture, can that child be considered Black? We know from the days of slavery that a drop of Black blood could make you maybe a mulatto, a quadroon, biracial or any other moniker or label that either has been or is being used. But, you were or are never White.

As stated earlier, Mr. Obama is being touted as "not being Black enough". Yet it has been jokingly said that Bill Clinton was the "first Black president". Let us beware of all the red-herrings that are being thrown at us. We have to get past skin color. Color is a diversion that is being used to divert our attention from the issues at hand; issues that will benefit us as a people. Just as the word "Black" in the space that reads race on the certificate doesn't make that person our "Moses", White in that same spot doesn't make that person "Pharaoh". In earlier elections, lifestyles and abortion have been used as diversions to steer us away from important aspects of the election. We have to keep our eye on the prize; the prize being the election of the person who we feel will do the most good with the fewest casualties. As a people, we don't realize the power we have at our disposal. Individually our votes create tiny ripples, but collectively they create tidal waves. We are the captains of our own ships, let's see if we can't steer our votes to our own advantage, regardless of race, color or creed!

## WHERE DO I GO FROM HERE ?

As the strong, vibrant notes of "Pomp and Circumstance" fade into the sunset, thousands of fresh faced, degree holding graduates are left wondering, "Where do I go from here?" A fortunate few have prospective employers awaiting them and they are chomping at the bit to take the world by the tail and turn the beat around. Most graduates step out in debt; it costs to be educated. What an introduction to the real world!

But, as ominous as it sounds, things are not so bad. The first step to making it in the employment world has already been accomplished. They have striven for and achieved an education. That degree, that piece of paper is the key to not only opening doors but the key to many kingdoms. That degree says volumes about its owner. Not only does it tell interviewers that an institution of higher learning thinks that they

are intelligent, but it tells them that this person is determined and dependable. Through thick and thin this person plodded on to attain the prize and reward he or she had set out to get. They didn't move the mountains but formatted alternate ways to get around them. This interviewee is creative and innovative, positive assets to have in an employee. It takes dogged-determination to earn a degree. If this were not so, everyone would have one.

Let's keep in mind though, that along with all of the book learning, a little thing called common sense has to be flavored into the mix. One not only needs aptitude, but a positive attitude comes in handy also. My mother has an old saying, "There ain't no fool like an educated fool!" All the education in the world cannot hide innate igno-

rance. In the recipe for rewarding employability generous doses of book learning and experience go hand in hand. Keep in mind that there is something to be learned every day and also that you can learn from anyone.

So, now graduate, armed with all of these "weapons of mass construction", step on out there and conquer the world. You have the tools and the means to make a difference. After all, isn't that what it's all about? Hopefully, these little pieces of advice can be your GPS system to help you figure out where you go from here.