

School Hyper List High

Two million "hyperactive" school-age children in the U.S. are taking tranquilizers, according to Dr. Harry Morgan, professor of education at Syracuse University. In a speech prepared for delivery before the annual conference of the National Association of Afro-American Life and History, Morgan said the tranquilizers, urged upon parents of mostly low-income families by school administrators, thwart a natural tendency among minority children to learn through acting out.

"For some time now," says Morgan, also director of Afro/American Studies at Syracuse, "classroom teachers have encouraged quiet manners and docile servitude of children who attend school. Research efforts indicate American black children and children in third world countries need an active environment for the most successful transfer and acquisition of knowledge."

Children from low-income families, Morgan says, seem most resistant to classroom demands for quietude. He says experienced teachers are aware that black children entering school for the first time do so with excitement and enthusiasm. But the school, he says, imposes a solemnness which serves to crush the creativity of children who are unwilling to withhold their bursts of energy until they are given permission to be active.

"I am suggesting that initially, these children's use of energy is not intended to be disruptive, but strategic to their style of learning," he said. Active black children cannot be creative if they are required to channel this energy through the larger side of a cornucopia, only to be squeezed out the narrow end..."

Morgan refers to published studies of T. Berry Brazelton, a Harvard pediatrician (see RRR Vol. 4, No. 17) whose research on East African and Mayan Indian neonates supports Morgan's view that the problem begins at birth and continues through the early years of growth as black mothers are encouraged to reject their children's motor achievements because of what Morgan calls "the brainwashing effect of white society."

Black mothers, Morgan says, "are made fearful that any positive interaction with their child's precocity might lead to poor integration into the single track school system of white low motor expectations."

As an example of the dubiousness of a once raging theory among clinicians that a person is either physically or mentally competent, but not both, Morgan points to the success of black athletes which he says is far greater than their population percentage would logically dictate. "Basketball, and to a lesser degree football, require great cognition, precisely at the height of motor expenditure. The black athlete is especially known for his or her split second decisions while running at top speed through the defense."

A recent report on Indian education revealed Indian children drop out twice as frequently, and their achievement is two to three years behind that of white children, but Morgan says the report also says that when Choctaw and Cherokee nations ran their own schools from 1800 to 1850, their students were more literate in both English and their own language than the average American.

"It is also true that at birth, black infants in our country surpass white infants in all areas of development when their mothers have normal prenatal care," the Syracuse professor says.

Morgan says a parent's frustration at a teacher's constant reporting of "what the schools call hyperactivity" sometimes leads to a parent's consent to have a fifth grader given daily medication to reduce motor activity, "having been convinced or terrorized by school authorities that it is in the best interest of the child. When institutions tell us that something is in our best interest, it is obvious whose best interest is really being served."



SWEARING IN -- David L. Harris (left) takes oath of office as deputy director of personnel management with the U.S. Department of Labor. Administering the oath is Fred G. Clark, assistant secretary of labor for administration and management, while director of personnel management Donald E. Lemmon holds the Bible.

Breast Cancer Clinics Held In County

Special Breast Cancer Clinics will be held throughout Clark County for senior citizens under a program co-expedited by Clark County Community College and The American Cancer Society starting November 11 and continuing for two (2) weeks.

Under the college's Senior Citizens' program which includes the Meals-On-Wheels under which 500 seniors are fed daily, and its Transportation Division which helps seniors under medical and nutritional priorities, the Cancer Clinics will be expedited.

The American Cancer Society will provide volunteer doctors who have specialties in the area of cancer detection.

According to Dr. Lloyd McNeil, Director, Senior Citizens Services, Clark County Community College, ten senior citizen centers will be in use for the project. These are as follows: Levy Gardens, Downs Towers, Hammond Terrace, Rose Garden, E.O.B. Senior Center, Archie Grant, Espinoza Terrace, St. Peter's Senior Center, Boulder City Senior Citizens Center and the Blind Center.

Since advance commitments for time schedules are necessary both for the college's staff and the American Cancer Society in lining

up its doctors, senior citizens are advised to apply for appointments at their earliest convenience. Mrs. Suzanne Ernst, Social Service Coordinator, Meals-On-Wheels, can be reached at 385-5595, Extension 64.

According to Mrs. Ernst, one motivating factor in the initiation of this project is the statistical fact that 1 out of 15 women have breast cancer although 80% of the lumps are benign. The remaining cases need treatment.

Mrs. Ernst, holder of an M.A. degree in Counseling and Personnel, is a former teacher and social service specialist now dedicating her career to senior citizens' problems.



Know Cancer's Warning Signals!

Food Stamp Suit Filed In Court

A lawsuit has been filed in Federal Court here against the United States Department of Agriculture and the State Food Stamp Office, charging them with failure to advise all eligible persons of the food stamp program. The suit was filed on behalf of the Clark County Welfare Rights Organization in September.

In 1971, Congress passed legislation requiring states to inform low income families of the benefits of the food stamp program and to "ensure their participation."

Mrs. Ruby Duncan, President of Clark County Welfare Rights Organization, stated that "the food stamp program in Nevada has made no effort to reach out to low income families, particularly the working families, to tell them how they may qualify for food stamps. With prices as high as they are, every eligible household should be using this program."

The suit claims that in Nevada, approximately 56,000 to 57,000 persons are eligible for food stamps, but only 15,000 participated in May, 1974. Therefore, over 70% of the eligible persons are not using the program. "We see many families who cannot afford adequate nutritious food and who should be on food stamps, but are not, because they do not know that the program is for them, too," said Joan Byron, Food Stamp Supervisor at Clark County Welfare Rights Organization. "It is the responsibility of the state to do the outreach, and to explain how to participate in the program."

Working families especially think that the program is for welfare families, but in fact, fewer than half the participants are in welfare. The problem is, many more who are eligible don't know it."

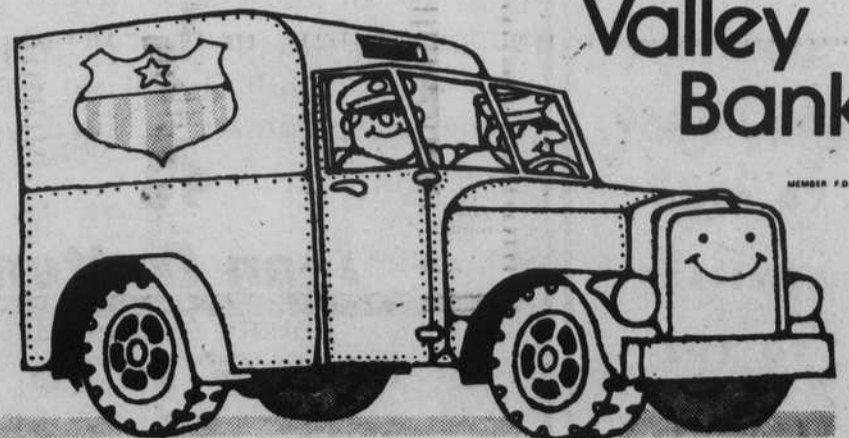
The lawsuit alleges that the failure of Nevada's food stamp program to reach all eligible persons thwarts the intent of Congress, and as a result of poor outreach, some \$280 million appropriated for the food stamp program nationally went UN-SPENT in fiscal year 1973. Nevada's lawsuit is one of 17 such suits filed throughout the country by the Food Research and Action Center, located in New York. It seeks to require the State Food Stamp Office and USDA to implement an effective outreach plan, to advise eligible persons of the program, and encourage and assist them in applying. In a similar case decided in October, a Federal Judge in Minnesota ruled that USDA had violated the law in not spending all money appropriated for food stamps and in not obeying the outreach mandate of Congress. Attorneys for Clark County Welfare Rights Organization feel that this will strengthen their position in the 17 new lawsuits.

GSA Trucks Now on Sale

General Services Administration announced that 52 used vehicles are being offered for sale to the public by Spot Bid on November 15, 1974 at 10:00 AM at the GSA, Interagency Motor Pool, 1400 Lewis Street, Reno, Nevada 89502.

The sale includes 6 and 8 cylinder sedans, some with air conditioning, pickups, and special equipment.

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