



# RUBY SAYS

by  
**Ruby Duncan**

I want to thank the Voice for being brave enough to print the article last week on the Desert Inn Hotel and the incredible amount of discrimination that exists in the Las Vegas Hotels. It is funny that no other newspaper picked up the story - it almost appears that they were told not to print the story. You know, an issue like this can be a very powerful one, and scares a lot of people because they know we are right.

The whole issue of discrimination in hiring practices is a touchy one. Something we will have to watch out for is tokenism.

Leroy Jones, the renowned Black author and poet, tells an interesting true story of Marietta, Ga. The Lockheed Airplane plant there employed over 10,000 people and the only black employees were porters, messengers and the like. The National NAACP and the Federal Government took action which was hailed as a "Huge step forward in race relations." One Black porter was promoted to a clerical position. The newspaper showed a picture of him smiling broadly and this was a very symbolic move. The ex-porter had a five-cents an hour increase, or two dollars more a week. This means that instead of a forty-five dollar week salary, this blazing symbol of social progress now made forty-seven dollars a week. It took three hundred years for a five-cent raise!

Well, my friend, Las Vegas isn't much better than that today. The percentages have shown that women and minorities still occupy the greatest number of menial jobs. The majority of the unemployed are again women and minorities. Together, those groups make the majority of the working population of this county. We will have to unite if anything is going to change.

People need some freedom, and to tell a man or woman they are free when they have neither money or opportunity to make it, is simply to mock them. The original draft to the American constitution said we had the right to "life, liberty and to own property." The property point was changed because everyone would have had something then. It was changed to some vague meaning called "the pursuit of happiness."

Economics is here it is at. We cannot have good health care, adequate diets, or decent housing until we have decent paying jobs - and the circle of poverty goes on....

## Children's Creative Dramatics

Children's creative dramatics is more than mere child's play. Although defined as "Creative play in which the child is an active participant," it can be used to teach a child how to cope with individuals and situations that they would deal with in a normal life.

This fall the UNLV will once again be offering a course in creative dramatics for children ages 4 to 16. Instructing the classes will be Jody Johnston Childers, production coordinator for the university's Youth/Children's Theatre.

"Creative dramatics can take many forms" says Childers. "It is not geared toward public performance, however, our classes will train the children how to use their bodies, voices and minds imaginatively. Eventually some of them

will use what they have learned in training to be actors, but actor training is not creative dramatics. They are two different things."

"There is no reason a child can't learn things like sound, lighting and recording," she says.

"I did a show with a company that had a seven-year-old stage manager and an eight-year-old light board operator and they never blew a cue."

"I really believe that it would be beneficial to children to have creative dramatics as an integral part of the school curriculum," says Childers. "We offer things like folk dancing in grammar schools, but with creative dramatics you can do so much more in terms of teaching children coordination and how to be comfortable in their bodies."

# \*\*V\*A FACTS

EDITOR'S NOTE: Following are representative questions answered daily by VA counselors. Full information is available at any VA office.

The VA leads the federal government in the number and level of employment of women, VA Administrator Richard L. Roudebush announced recently.

As of June 30, 1976, VA women in full time so-called "white collar" jobs numbered 89,198, the equivalent of 56.8% of the total VA work force.

"I have stressed continued efforts to employ and upgrade the role of women in the VA and these new figures are a reflection of our genuine concern," Roudebush said.

He said the most recent available figures

comparing VA and government-wide employment of women show that in October 1975 women accounted for 56.5% of total VA employment while in the government as a whole they were only 35.3%.

And in the year ending last October, Roudebush said, the number of women employed by VA increased by 5,685, or 40% of the total federal government increase in female employment during that period.

"This is a remarkable record and we are extremely proud of it," he said.

## ET TU CAESAR



by Ruby Duncan and Kev. Albert Dunn

Caesars World was once the entire world. Caesar's legions patrolled the Mediterranean in ships propelled by galley slaves. The Roman empire enslaved women, Africans from across the Mediterranean and neighboring Spaniards. That was 2,000 years ago.

Today there is a new Caesars World. This modern day Caesars World is a corporation that operates Caesars Palace. The Caesars Palace empire unfortunately has striking similarities to its ancient namesake. No, Caesars Palace does not have galley slaves; it has not raped Africa; it has not plundered Spain and it does not openly buy and sell women at the market.

One might, however, characterize the employment picture at Caesars Palace as neo-slavery. Mops and brooms have replaced chains and leg irons. Nonetheless, these new shackles are as permanent and paralyzing as leg irons and chains.

The new victims, as the old, are women and persons of African and Spanish ancestry. Today we are generally called females, Latinos, Chicanos, Blacks, Cubanos, Puerto Ricans, and in some employment reports we are just backhandedly referred to as "Others."

The system seems to have a hard time finding names for us, but it is not hard to find us on employment reports -- just look for "Service Workers." As of June 30, 1976, there were 1076 women working at Caesars Palace. Women make up about 1/3 of Caesars' work force, but 67% of all women employed there are in service worker jobs. Eighty-nine percent of all Black women are in service worker jobs. Chicanas and Black women as a group find that 86% of their number are service workers. Similarly, 73% of all Black and Latino, Puerto Rican, Cubano and Chicano males are service workers.

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## Happiness Through Health

by  
**Otto McClarrin**

### BLOOD TEST DEvised FOR MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS

A blood test for multiple sclerosis shows potential for early diagnosis of the baffling nerve disease, Duke University researchers have reported. There has been no fully reliable or easy test to tell if a person has multiple sclerosis (MS), or some other disease. This is because of the variety of MS symptoms and the fact that other diseases have some of the same symptoms.

The new blood test can distinguish between MS and some other neurological diseases, and can indicate MS regardless of the severity, duration and activity of the disease, according to Dr. Nelson L. Levy, Paul S. Auerbach, and Dr. Edward C. Hayes of the division of Immunology, Duke University Medical Center.

Multiple Sclerosis is a chronic debilitating disease affecting about 500,000 Americans. There is no cure for MS, nor is its cause known. It is marked by patchy destruction of the insulating sheath, myelin, around nerves. That causes a kind of short-circuiting that can bring on weakness, tremor, stiffness, vision troubles, difficulty with bladder control, and other symptoms. It follows an up and down course, with remissions or improvement followed by new attacks.

### SWINE FLU VACCINATIONS:

Persons considered high-risks for influenza will be vaccinated against swine flu this fall instead of this summer as previously planned, Federal health officials say. They blamed the delay on problems with vaccine production and the need for more tests.

Dr. David Sencer, director of the Center for Disease Control in Atlanta, (CDC) said the high-risk program should start shortly after Labor Day, at about the same time inoculations begin for normal adults.

High-risk persons are those over 65 years old, and people of all ages with chronic diseases, such as pulmonary problems and congenital heart defects. These people run more risk of dying or suffering serious complications from influenza than the rest of the population.

Two Federal Health Advisory Committees recommended recently that the \$135 million vaccination program move ahead to immunize adults against swine flue as soon as possible. But they advised delaying shots for children and young people until more studies were made.

Dr. Sencer said vaccination of the young will probably begin by late fall or early winter following studies of what type of vaccine at what doses should be used. Results of the first human studies with swine-flu vaccines said the shots appeared safe and effective for adults 24 or older.

However, side effects in children were higher than expected with the most effective vaccines. These side effects, such as mild fever and malaise, were not too serious, but researchers said there was time to develop a better vaccine program for younger persons.

### MEDICAL & DENTAL SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIPS:

The Senate recently approved legislation that will require medical schools, as a condition of receiving Federal aid, to channel more of their graduates into general practice. These goals relate to students in primary care training defined as family practice, general internal medicine, pediatrics, and obstetrics and gynecology. In 1977, the medical schools must ensure that at least 42 percent of their residencies are in primary care.

The bill also sets up an expanded loan program for medical and dental students that will allow government-backed loans of up to \$10,000 a year. The program would offer full scholarships, plus a \$400 a month stipend, for medical and dental school students who agree to serve after graduation in areas where there are shortages in health care. Recipients would be required to serve one year in such areas for each year of the scholarship.