

## \*\*V\*A FACTS

Q -- I have been covered by the Civilian Health and Medical Program of the VA (CHAMPVA) since my husband died of a service-connected illness. Should I remarry, will my children and I lose this entitlement?

A -- In the event of your remarriage, your children will retain CHAMPVA benefits. You will not. Should your subsequent marriage end in divorce or death, your entitlement will be reinstated.

Q -- I married in 1948, but never changed the beneficiary on my National Service Life Insurance from my mother to my wife. May I still do this?

A -- Yes. Any VA office can provide the proper form.

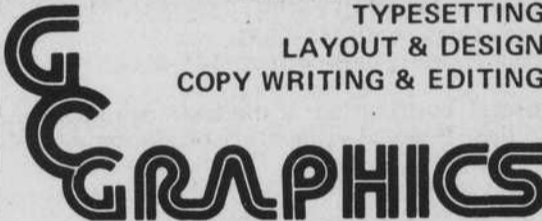
Q -- What period of time must a veteran be missing to be considered deceased by the VA?

A -- A veteran who is missing and whose absence has been unexplained for seven years may be presumed dead by VA.

Q -- May a veteran receiving a VA pension continue to receive his check if he is incarcerated?

A -- Pension payments under these circumstances are terminated after the 60th day of incarceration, but an appointment may be authorized to his dependents for the duration of his incarceration.

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## EOB

The Economic Opportunity Board of Clark County offers sterilization services which include tubal ligations and vasectomies to low income clients in Clark County who are within the income guidelines. The Title XX Family Planning staff screens their clients for financial eligibility, however they must be approved by State Welfare before services can be administered.

The Agency contracts the services through local physicians, who in turn perform required and follow-up services for each client. The Title XX Family Planning staff are here to serve you, for more information on the above and other programs offered by EOB Title XX, contact 647-2171.

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# VOICE EDITORIALS

## Education is Power



By Thomas E. Wilson

The column for this week was written by Mr. James R. Kitchen, Affirmative Action Officer at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, and is entitled, "Access and Power for Blacks in Higher Education."

Blacks continue to confront the segregation of power and barriers to access in American higher education. These problems are so closely related that they cannot be solved unless they are considered together. Nevertheless, most treatments of racial equality in higher education fail to establish and develop this relationship. People lament the failures of financial aid policies to meet the needs of many Black students. They do not, however, associate those failures with the lack of Black participation in setting as well as implementing those policies. There is great concern about the inadequacy of information received by prospective Black students. Frequently, however, no connection is made between that and the absence of authoritative Black input into decisions about the types and channels of information which are necessary. Administrators complain about the lack of "Qualified" Black professors. Nevertheless, they neither pressure their colleagues to produce more Black Ph.D.'s nor work hard to hire Blacks for faculty and administrative positions which could influence the production of Black Ph.D.'s.

In attempting to deal with the real problems of Blacks in White institutions, it is necessary to ignore a number of red herrings and false premises. One which is so prevalent that its appeal appears irresistible is stereotyping. Although innumerable warnings about this pitfall have been issued, most Whites and some Blacks continue to fall into it.

The notion that all Blacks wear labels like "disadvantaged" or "separatists" or "oreos" must be abandoned. Such labeling produces cumulative error by fostering further incorrect and sometimes subconscious assumptions. What we as Blacks cannot do is to reverse the patterns and have the entire issue of stereotyping to remain a damaging problem within our institutions.

Schools must perceive and respond to more than one type of Black. They also must respond according to their proven capabilities rather than isolating "new" students exclusively in new and uncertain programs. If a school is known for its strength in certain areas, but recruits Blacks only in Black Studies, Urban Studies, and other recently established programs or departments, something is wrong.

Something is wrong when schools recruit for these purposes, however, it is being done every day. Many recruiters and admission counselors feel that in order for them to attract Black students to their institutions they only need to talk about programs designed around Minorities. These schools want to be able to identify Blacks with experimental or special programs whose success or failure is incidental to the overall standing of the institution.

Questions are raised about schools which have good experience recruiting students from certain areas and types of schools going to totally different areas and types of schools to look for Blacks. The argument is that this makes them miss many of their best prospects and leads to high attrition rates among Blacks. This is definitely true especially with many of our predominately Black institutions and White institutions that recruit heavily with the Black communities.

The notion that a few key administrators and one or two Black faculty members can

provide everything necessary to make an institution hospitable to increasing numbers of Blacks has been discredited. It is virtually impossible for a handful of Black educators and staff members to meet all of the needs and demands of the Black students.

Dealing with sensitive question concerning a diverse group is not easy. However, we do have a problem in higher education, not only with Black students, but with Black faculty, staff members, and administrators.



## The Hughes Report

By Thomas F. Hughes

About a year ago Las Vegas Westside had a series of church burning which later stopped with the arrest of 3 or 4 suspects. As a result of that problem some ministers formed "Pastors and Ministers Business Association." Last Sunday they had a first annual memorial service at Pentecostal Temple church of God in Christ pastore by Bishop E.N. Webb, who is also president of the group.

Last Friday night the Westside Comprehensive Community Economic Development Plan headed by Otis Harris, held a Board meeting at the Las Vegas Convention Center and presented the Master Plan (OEDP) Overall Economic Development Plan and announced the officers of Southern Nevada Economic Development Plan. Chairwoman Marjorie Elliot conducted the meeting at which approval by the Board of the O.E.D.P. Plan was accepted. Bob Goodman, State Economic Director, pointed out that the Vegas O.E.D.P. was done in some 6-7 months while other areas had been working as much as 5 years and still had not completed their plan. The plan was a magnificent treatise on the Westside. The people involved spent 15-16 hours a day preparing the plan and it was complete even to cost. The group had a grant for one year and no one can properly criticize the excellent job, especially when the meager fund of \$115,000 is considered. It is well to understand that nothing can be done physically until the plan or proposal is given - then it must be ratified and approval given before funds to do the job are allocated. We owe a vote of thanks to W.C.C.E.D.P. and their efficient and talented staff.

In the Oct. 6 issue of Jet Magazine - Rev. Joseph Lowery's "Prayer Vigil" in front of the White House with several clergymen to urge the president to support affirmative action programs in the Bakke Case, his first national demonstration as S.C.L.C. President, had the help of the Texas farmworkers union, who knew how to keep the candles lit. The Bakke case involves a white who appealed to the California Supreme Court a decision handed down by a lower court wherein Bakke claimed reverse discrimination by U.S. California because they held out 16 of 100 enrollments for black students and denied him although he had superior grades. It has since been made public that others with higher grades who were black did not into the classes. Also it is now revealed that some preferences were given to certain white students because of political and personal considerations to special friends of the admitting dean. Should Bakke win it could mean the end of affirmative action programs which provide quotas for hiring. The denial of blacks in such a case based on "preferential treatment" might backfire because veterans are given preferential treatment on jobs, in education, home purchasing, etc. Women are now getting preferential treatment on jobs because they claim previous unfair treatment. Corrective action can only come about with preferential treatment but there is a danger in quotas lest the powers hold to that

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