

Happiness Through Health

by Otto McClarrin

DOCTOR FEES LEAD PRICE GAINS BY 80 PERCENT: The nation's nearly 400,000 doctors have virtually no outside restraints on fees they charge and some may even set "target levels" for their annual income, a government report says.

A yearlong study by the Council on Wage and Price Stability released recently said that physicians fees have climbed about 80 percent faster since 1950 than consumer prices in general, and no relief is in sight.

Americans spent \$35 billion for doctors' services in the fiscal year ended last September 30, against \$2.7 billion in 1950, the report said. The total nationwide medical care bill has reached \$185 billion and constitutes more than nine percent of the country's total economy.

The 158-page report contained no recommendations to deal with "the disturbing rate" of "physician fee inflation." Instead, it offered information that backers of national health insurance could use to support arguments that doctors' bills have sky-rocketed for nearly three decades and contribute substantially to inflation.

The American Medical Association, in a preliminary statement, admitted that the council's study "raises some serious questions about physician activities," but expressed disappointment that the report failed "to offer some positive recommendations on controlling costs."

The report stated the primary cause of rapidly rising doctors' bills since the mid-1960s has been the extraordinary growth in private and public health insurance coverage. Up to 170 million people, about 80 percent of the population, have private health insurance covering doctors' services.

"While increased insurance coverage enabled many people to receive required medical care," the report said, "it also, to a large extent, exempted physicians' fees from the usually restraining effects of market forces."

In a market where about 60 percent of the cost of services is reimbursed . . . a payment mechanism based on a physician determining his own fee can be expected to result in high rates of fee inflation."

ALCOHOL FEARED DANGEROUS WITH VARIETY OF DRUGS: Alcohol appears to make its users much more susceptible to the toxic effects of other drugs and chemicals, according to a recent report by researchers. While it has been known for a long time that alcohol and barbiturates are a dangerous combination, more recent research indicates alcohol has a profound effect on the way the body handles a wide variety of drugs and perhaps even chemicals found in the environment.

For example:

Dr. Charles S. Lieber of the Bronx Veterans Administration Center, predicts that a widely used aspirin substitute, acetaminophen, when taken in large amounts, "will become the major cause of acute liver necrosis (death of liver cells) in this country." The most widely used brand of acetaminophen is tylenol.

Dr. Ernest P. Noble, director of the National Institute of Alcohol and Alcoholism said a forthcoming report by his institute to Congress will detail an "astronomical" increase in the incidence of mouth cancer in drinkers who smoke. He said alcohol appears to have a potentiating influence on the carcinogenic (cancer-causing) effect of tobacco on the mouth.

Propranolol is another drug whose effect is enhanced by alcohol, Noble said. Propranolol is widely used by heart patients with rhythm abnormalities. Noble said recent tests showed that its physiological effect doubles in the presence of alcohol, a situation that possibly could alter the drug's beneficial effect.

He said the institute is interested in the ways that alcohol may worsen, toxic effects of other chemicals, ranging from pesticides to food additives, on humans.

Alcohol is so widely used that it may be causing a large number of unrecognized problems, Noble said.

Kaiser Konsumer's Korner

By Inez Kaiser



Men's wear has always been a favorite subject of mine to write about. For years I covered the male fashion shows, viewed the latest trends, talked about them on the air, but had few, if any photos that my readers could identify with. So, yours truly was absent for several years because she did not have tear sheets to send in.

This year I did attend the Spring '78 Male Fashion Show in Las Vegas, Nevada at the Convention Center. It was a thrill to see the site where Ali had just lost the Championship title. The people were still talking about it as you moved throughout the city of bright lights and entertainment.

Women are talking about the new look for them this spring but have they stopped to see how their men will look? To sum it up, they will be very casual in appearance, or as the young set might say, "hang loose."

Most of the clothes will either be made of fabrics made from natural fibers or have the look of natural fibers in new blends. The polyester suits, jackets and pants will take a back seat this season.

There are all kinds of patterns and colors -- some bright others very dull. The off-white, pale green and subdued colors seemed to be the most popular.

Everything about men's wear has changed for the warm days that are just beginning to come our way. It will be common place to see a well dressed man have the sleeves of his coat pushed up or rolled up. The "free" look prevailed throughout the showings.

Collars and cuffs on men's shirts are different. Some require no ties at all to give that complete look, while the rest will be worn with narrower width ties made of interesting fabrics and patterns.

The straw hat that was so popular for years will be on the heads of men this spring and summer. Even a few caps might be seen as warmer weather approaches.

Shoes for men are lighter weight and the combination of colors like black and white will be seen moving all around. Belts are narrower, buckles different and even the rope or cord belts that are worn around women's dresses this season will be seen on the stylish man.

The leisure suit has faded out of the fashion picture. Instead, slacks and jeans will be worn with knitted and woven sport shirts and topped with a summer sweater. This is the season when every male can mix and put together whatever he looks and feels good in.

Sports enthusiasts will have a wide selection of clothes to choose from. This year the golfer, tennis buff, racquet ball player, sailboat fellow or swimmer will find clothes designed especially for them to look smart whether on the golf course or on some body of water.

All in all, the men this spring will have a new and different look. The clothes they wore last year in general will be outdated.

You will be reading more about the showings for the next several weeks. I do want you to know that it was gratifying to see a young black model who wore the clothes well and handled himself equally on the runway. He is certain to go to the top. My only concern is that there should be more black models and photos taken by the manufacturers since black males are trend setters in the fashion world.

Maybe you can help me make this happen. When you buy from your retailer mention the idea, better still write a letter to the manufacturer. As consumers you have the right to ask for what you want, especially if you are spending your money.

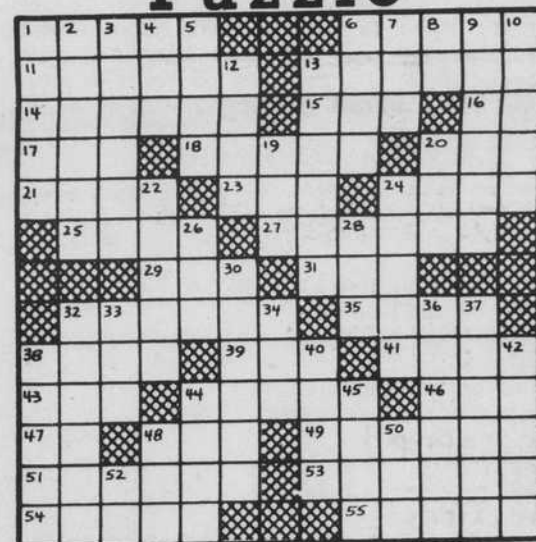
Day Camps

North Las Vegas Recreation Department will be running Day Camps at all five of their Centers this summer. Each two week session will be packed with exciting things for kids to do. Activities will include games, sports, arts and crafts, swimming, movies and trips to the mountains. Lunches are also included in the \$15.00 per session fee. Enrollment is open to children between the ages of 7 and 13.

Sessions begin June 19, July 3, July 17, and July 31.

To register or for more information about the Camps call the North Las Vegas Neighborhood Center at 649-7737, Tom Williams borhood Center at 649-7737, Tom Williams Community Center 642-2873, Lois Craig Community Center 643-0801, C.V.T. Gilbert Community Center 648-2126, Jim Bridger Community Center, 649-4464.

Crossword Puzzle



ACROSS

- 1. Fragment
- 6. Waist bands
- 11. Eats away
- 13. Leave the track
- 14. Spud
- 15. Little
- 16. Myself
- 17. Insect
- 18. Wise men
- 20. River in Scotland
- 21. Sly look
- 22. Chum
- 24. Exploit
- 25. Cut
- 27. Dark
- 29. Pinch off
- 31. Unhappy
- 32. Robed
- 35. True
- 38. Departed
- 39. However
- 41. Metallic waste
- 43. Pole
- 44. Monastery head
- 46. Before: prefix

- 47. Public notice
- 48. Be ill
- 49. Covered passageway
- 51. Verse
- 53. Twos: cards
- 54. Darling
- 55. Extra

DOWN

- 1. Flower part
- 2. Old women
- 3. Decayed
- 4. Girl's name
- 5. Animal playmates
- 6. Insects
- 7. Before
- 8. French "the"
- 9. Opportune
- 10. Smooth
- 12. Cleaning agent
- 13. Resides
- 19. Joke: slang
- 20. Not bright
- 22. Wash lightly
- 24. Styles

- 26. Cavity
- 28. Paddle
- 30. Full of stones
- 32. Witchcraft
- 33. Finish
- 34. Name
- 36. Sheeplike animal
- 37. Pantry
- 38. Comparative diagram
- 40. Amphibian
- 42. Web-footed birds
- 44. Well ventilated
- 45. Very: French
- 48. Consumed
- 50. Container
- 52. Printer's measure

ANSWERS ON PAGE 22