

**V*A FACTS

Patients at Veterans Administration hospitals and clinics have once again expressed a high degree of satisfaction with their medical care, VA reported today.

They also gave high marks to the attitudes of VA personnel and to the cleanliness of VA medical facilities.

In fact, the agency said, patients expressed higher degrees of satisfaction with the VA medical care system than did patients in non-VA facilities who were responding to similar survey questions asked by private pollsters.

The comments released today were taken from VA's 1978 Patient Satisfaction Survey, a massive, biennial study designed to monitor and lead to improvements to the agency's nationwide medical system.

Patients selected at random were asked to complete anonymously, questionnaires measuring their satisfaction with various aspects of VA medical care. Their sealed responses were tabulated at VA headquarters in Washington, D.C.

For example, 88 percent of the inpatients responding to the survey said they felt "my doctor has given me the best care possible."

By comparison, 82 percent of adult civilians responding to a 1978 poll by Louis Harris and Associates gave a similar rating to their doctors.

In the VA survey, 85 percent said they felt their doctors' examination had been "very thorough," 82 percent said "everything that was wrong with me was carefully looked into," and 81 percent felt that "my doctor really understands my case."

A total of 92 percent said VA physicians had been pleasant and courteous, 88 percent felt "the staff has a real interest in me," and 81 percent said "my doctor did his best to keep me from worrying."

In the Harris poll, 64 percent of the patients said their doctors exhibited "respect and concern for patients as individuals." By contrast, 73 percent of the VA patients surveyed found this respect and concern among agency doctors.

Eighty three percent of the veterans surveyed said their doctors answered their questions about their medical condition, 79 percent said their physicians explained to them what they were doing, and 76 percent expressed satisfaction with the doctors' explanations.

On the other hand, 64 percent of the non-VA patients in a survey conducted by Houston and Pasanen expressed satisfaction with the diagnostic, progress and treatment information given to them.

The lowest scores from veteran patients came in the area of "emotional support" doctors and nurses. Less than half thought doctors took enough time to tell them how they were doing or to listen to their views; just over half thought their nurses took enough time to give them progress reports.

VA medical centers rated high in the culinary department: 85 percent of the patients were satisfied with the variety of food served, 81 percent said their meals were served at the correct temperatures, and 86 percent graded their meals, "good."

In contrast, 55 percent of respondents in the Harris poll expressed satisfaction with their hospital food and meals.

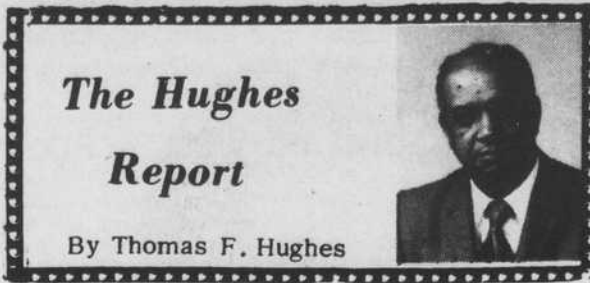
In other areas, VA patients were very complimentary of their nursing care: 94 percent said "the nurses have taken good care of me," 93 percent said nurses aides had been kind and helpful, and 92 percent thought "the nurses know their job and do it well."

Other VA medical personnel also received high grades from the patients: x-ray and laboratory personnel, people who serve meals, and canteen employees all received favorable comments from more than 90 percent of those surveyed.

Eighty seven percent of VA hospital patients in the survey said they would want to return to VA for any future hospital care needed.

VA's Chief Medical Director, Dr. James C. Crutcher, said, "We place a high value on the response to this survey. We will use these results in our continuing efforts to refine and update our procedures and practices."

VOICE EDITORIALS



The Hughes Report

By Thomas F. Hughes

COSMETOLOGISTS SHOW - REV. DAVIS BLACK POPULATION SENATOR LAXALT SCORED

Those who did not attend the cosmetologists Fashion Fair Sunday June 17th (Father's Day) missed the best show this year in Las Vegas. Not just the best Black show but the best show. The Fashion part of the show was magnificent and came close to matching the Ebony Fashion Fair.

Composed of primarily local talent with some professionals the show was conducted with professional type production. Models exhibited hair styles for men and women (mostly men) as the show was dubbed "About Men". The hairdos of those models would make you want to go get your hair done. But in addition to the hairdos the models exhibited street wear, party wear, evening clothes, swim wear, etc.

Four beautiful young girls known as the "Black Extravaganza" did choreography equal to any I have seen on the Strip. A black ventriloquist comedian showed superb talent. Jim Baker, an M.C. deluxe, added that professional excellence to the show and various members of the Las Vegas and Los Angeles cosmetologists acted as commentators during the 3 hour extravaganza. Then as the last part of the show the inimitable "Don Juan" of Station KVOV put on a show that alone would be worth the small fee for the affair.

A near capacity crowd attended the very excellent affair at the Marina Hotel. Plan to see it next year. Had the talent scouts been there I am sure they would have had a field day.

After the show, Disco Dancing was provided for the guests. Quite a show.

Rev. Davis of Second Baptist is doing a good job of involving the ministers in the newly formed O.I.C. office in Las Vegas. At a special meeting last Saturday Rev. I.W. Wilson, Rev. I.W. Wilson Jr., Rev. Kemp Rev. Culverson, Rev. Ball and Rev. Davis met in the continuing development of the local office. It is hoped that other ministers will lend their support to this worthy project.

O.I.C. can provide substantial help in alleviating unemployment especially to the young unemployed but O.I.C. also helps all people young and old, black and white.

Much effort has been given to obtaining a Vo-Tech type training program on the Westside but little seems to have been accomplished. The need is well established and O.I.C. could be the best and most viable answer to that need.

O.I.C. not only trains but places trainees on jobs and follow up to monitor the success of those trainees, sometimes returning them to training to strengthen their skill and ability.

Black youth must be helped because black babies are on the increase as witness the following U.P.I. report:

America's black population grew 12.6 percent in the last eight years, more than double the rate of white growth, the Census Bureau said Monday.

The new census report also showed that whites have a considerably higher median age - 30 - than blacks - 24.

"The black population has experienced a slower decline in fertility than the white population and as a consequence, the decline in the population under 14 has been sharper for whites than for blacks," the bureau said.

"The number of blacks 18 to 24 years of age has increased at almost twice the rate of whites in that age group," the bureau said. "The black population also has experienced more rapid growth among older ages than whites."

The census report showed that while the white population increased 5.5 percent between 1970 and mid-1978, the black population grew 12.6 percent.

Overall, the bureau said, there were 218 million Americans in July 1978 compared to 204 million in April 1970. During that time the black population grew from 22.7 million to 25.6 million while the number of whites grew from 179 million to 188.9 million.

The bureau said if its overall population figures were adjusted for the undercount the government estimates is made in each census - people whom the census misses - the population would be set at 209 million in 1970 and 224 million in 1978.

The bureau said the fastest population growth in the past eight years was among people aged 25 to 34, whose numbers grew 35 percent. There also was a big increase - 18 percent - among people 18 to 24, and among those over 65 - up 20 percent.

Numbers actually declined, however, for youngsters under 13. There was a 10.5 percent drop for those under age five and a 14.4 percent decrease among those between five and 13.

Senator Paul Laxalt was scored in a recent article. Sen. Paul Laxalt's votes on civil rights issues in the 95th Congress got him a "zero" grading from the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights.

United Press International reported from Washington that the Nevada Republican was one of 11 U.S. senators handed the "zero" grade. At the same time, the leadership Conference bestowed perfect marks on the voting of 16 other senators during the 95th Congress.

The ratings were based on votes the organization considered crucial to civil rights.

The Senate votes dealt with school desegregation, affirmative action programs, full voting representation for the District of Columbia, minimum wage, housing, pregnancy disability, creation of the national consumer bank, legal services, labor law revisions and extension of the ratification period for the Equal Rights Amendment.

Nevada Sen. Howard Conon wasn't listed in either category.

Given the zero ratings along Laxalt were Sens. Maryon Allen, D-Ala.; James McClure, R-Idaho; James Eastland, D-Miss.; John Stennis, D-Miss.; Carl Curtis, R-Neb.; Jesse Helms, R-N.C.; John Tower, R-Tex.; Jake Garn, R-Utah; William Scott R-Va., and Malcolm Wallop, R-Wyo.

**"Call It
Black Male"**

by ROOSEVELT FITZGERALD

THE AFRICAN CONNECTION

We're number one. Most people have a dream of being number one at something. Nowadays what we here most about are athletic teams--NBA champions, World Series champions, gold medal winners, WPGA NCAA and all of the rest. Small time operations at the very best. King of the world. Ruler of the universe. The son of the Sun. Now that's ambition. Luckily the number of fanatics who have had monumental dreams along these lines are few and far between.

Over 2000 years ago a young prince called Alexander son of Philip King of Macedon was born. He was destined for greatness. As a young man when consulting the Oracle he was asked what his desires for the future might be. His response, when given a choice of a long uneventful life or a short and glorious one was in the affirmative for the latter. He set out to conquer all of the known world. He did it. He was Alexander the Great. He died at the age of 33. A short and glorious life? Certainly.

When one conquers or wins something someone else need already possess it. In this instance it was the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 21