

# LANE

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tour. All of which would, in the estimates of any sane persons, be a bad circumstance. There have always been those who have said they could make it without a known lead singer: "We'll simply get another one." But in most cases they have flopped. And there are no doubts that the Commodores would suffer irreparably as the group without Lionel Richie. And this is something ALL the members of the Commodores should know, regardless of inner-group friction caused by the sudden offshoot success of one member.

It should be possible for any member of any singing group to do his or her own extra-curricular work anywhere and at any time, and make any amounts of extra money and achieve any kind of personal elevating fame, and still be a working part of the unit that first brought any and all of them to initial popularity.

But partnerships, business or marital, often in the days afterwards, usually find it easier to break up more than to stay together. Maybe I'm wrong, but in showbusiness the go it alone members of famous cleavages who subsequently succeed spectacularly are lower

in percentages than those who fail.

Success, really, should bring people closer together. Any fool can walk away. It takes sheer intelligence to iron out differences and hang on in there together.

Lionel Richie, let's face it, is encountering great success in his new field as a producer of music for Kenny Rogers, Dottie West, Donna Fargo, Kim Carnes and other country-western singers under the Ken Craigen management banner. But we have yet to see the songwriter who outranks the singers of his songs in popularity.



**DONNA** Summer signed to sing at the newly refurbished MGM Grand in Las Vegas come September 10... Ben Vereen has decided to get to the heart of the matter: being black. He's set to kick off on July 23 in Kingston, Jamaica a musical production featuring music of Jamaica, calypso, reggae and all, with dances galore. It will open this year's Jamaican Festival

# SENTINEL NEWS ROUNDUP

## Suspects Booked On Murder Rap

Two suspects, Tony Hines, 22, of 209 W. Monroe Ave. and Amanda Conway, 22, of 1928 W. Lake Mead Blvd., have been booked on open murder charges in connection with the shooting of a St. Louis woman at the Frontier Hotel on July 5. They were arrested last Thursday.

A 'secret witness' informant using the Metro Secret Witness hotline, reportedly gave police the names of the suspects and the location of the murder weapon.

The victim, Grace M.

Quinn, 48, was found dead on the bed in her hotel room on July 5. She had been shot several times. Police reported that she was either shot during a burglary or when she surprised her killers during a robbery. Witnesses reported having seen a man and a woman walking down the hall and entering an elevator right after the shooting.

In addition to the 'secret witness' information, a comparison of fingerprints taken at the scene of the crime with those on file with police was used to help identify one of the suspects.

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## SOCIAL

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clamped down on disability benefits.

There are other major objections to the Administration's plan as well, and a sign that the Administration may recognize the deficiencies of its proposal is its willingness to compromise.

Alternatives now before Congress are flawed too. They too, make budget cutting the top priority, and put protection of the interests of the elderly lower on the scale. Two such plans call for raising retirement from age 65 to 68, and for

lowering cost of living increases.

Such proposals amount to a massive overreaction to the problems with social security financing. They would make permanent changes impacting negatively on the poorest of the elderly, while neglecting less painful, more logical approaches.

No one, for example, talks about the basic reason for the system's cash problems — the persistently high unemployment that reduces the take from social security taxes. If we had full employment, we would also have a solvent social security

# SOUTH

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Reagan's proposals for cuts in Social Security benefits. Southern Republicans are already beginning to express anxiety over the obvious lack of public support for the Reagan program. In the words of Congressman Newt Gingrich, a Republican from Georgia, "Reagan is currently winning the votes in the House, but not the argument in the country."

Significantly, it was a high black voter turnout which proved to be decisive in the Mississippi election's results. This turnout indicates that Southern blacks may emerge in 1982 as a pivotal force in the drift away from conservatism and the inroads made by Republicans since the advent of Richard Nixon's "Southern Strategy."

If Southern black voters participate more actively in the electoral process, and if they join with organized labor in its drive to unionize the South, a significant step will be taken toward equalizing wages and eliminating racial inequality.

In 1978, the last year in which statistics are available, black workers in the South earned only 78 percent of the wages of their white counterparts. Throughout the rest of the United States, black workers earned 99 percent of white workers' wages. This

revealing statistic indicates that it is the South which remains the major stumbling-block to eliminating wage discrimination in the United States.

Another disturbing fact is that despite the recent business boom in the South, Southern workers (black and white) earn 17 percent less than workers elsewhere in the United States. This wage discrepancy is directly attributable to a lower rate of unionization. As a recent article in the U.S. government's MONTHLY LABOR REVIEW indicates, in those industries in which Southern workers are highly unionized (paper products and chemicals) Southern workers "earn as much or only slightly less than other workers."

## PPPT

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amount of pride and joy for Erma O'Neal is the development of the Erma L. O'Neal Community Services Center located at 323 N. Maryland Parkway — a project to provide day care for low income families on the East Side of Las Vegas. It is used by residents of all races, creeds and religions — it is well integrated. It was named for Erma O'Neal for her many years of work in housing, welfare, and justice.

PPPT office is located at 1801 North "J" St. Other staff members include Elizabeth Johnson, housing counselor; Brenda Burks, secretary and Summer youth workers Angela Fuller, Delores Jackson and Vickie Brown. There are also a countless number of other youth and adult workers.

The present Board of Directors include Willie M. Andrews, Chairperson; Erma L. O'Neal, Director; Louise Sanders, Treasurer; Roma J. Hunt, Secretary and Sylvia M. Leaks, Grievance Chairperson.

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