

THE NAACP AND YOU!



Rev. Jesse D. Scott
President
Las Vegas, NAACP



The NAACP and You!

-The NAACP and McDonald Sponsor Job Fair-

On Wednesday June 10, the Las Vegas Branch NAACP and McDonald Corporation of America will jointly present the Second Annual Job Fair in Heritage Hall, located in the Nucleus Plaza Center, 940 W. Owens Ave. The Job Fair will begin at 9:00 a.m. and end at 3:00 p.m. Last year at 8:00 a.m. there were several hundred people waiting to be served and before the end of the day more than one thousand applicants had been processed. The purpose of the Job Fair is to create a meeting place

where management searching for employees can come face to face in an interview setting with people who are looking for employment. This job fair is for persons who are 18 years of age and older. All others can make applications for employment at Southern Nevada Employment Training Program located on the corner of Stewart and Eastern. Job Finding or Job Development is a service rendered by the NAACP, without charge to the public. NAACP Job Bank is open every Monday from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Call 646-1662.

-NAACP Presents a Spring Tea-

The Ways and Means Committee of the Las Vegas Branch NAACP will present its first fund raiser for 1987 in the form of a Spring Tea. The hours of the tea are from 2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. on Sunday, May 17 at Club Rouge located at 900 West Bonanza. May 17 is a historic day in the annals of the NAACP. It was May 17, 1954 when the Supreme Court ruled that the Board of Education in Topeka, Kansas was wrong for denying Black Children from attending schools with whites in Topeka, Kansas. The public must realize that if it expects the NAACP to continue to play its traditional role of defending Black people who have been discriminated against or denied the opportunity to exercise full citizenship in the American society, then it must be willing to participate and be supportive in all of its efforts. The NAACP does not receive large sums of money from foundations, grants or individuals, but instead, all of its funds come from the individual member subscription. Therefore, your cooperation and support in this fundraiser is very important.

-Mayorality Candidates Invited To A Community Meeting-

On Saturday, May 23, at 11:30 a.m. there will be a community meeting. Both mayorality candidates are invited to attend this very important meeting. This is an opportunity that the Black community may not have again in the near future where it can determine who will be the next mayor of the City of Las Vegas. If you read this column, then we will expect you to be in attendance as well as to bring someone else. The meeting will be held at the Club Rouge, 900 W. Bonanza Road.

-NAACP Youth Meets-

The Las Vegas Branch NAACP Youth Council meets every Saturday at 2:00 p.m. in the Branch office located at 940 W. Owens Ave. The

MINORITY DOCTORS: AN ENDANGERED SUCCESS STORY?

By Dr. James Gavin III
Professor and Diabetes Chief
Health Sciences Center
University of Oklahoma

Minority group doctors have provided care and leadership in communities throughout America, though their numbers are still too small.

Now a new report states that minority medical school applicants are better prepared than in the mid-1970s, when minority medical school admissions peaked, but are less likely to be accepted. This raises some concerns about the future supply of minority physicians and minority communities' access to care.

The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation's Special Report on Minority Medical Training Programs summarizes findings from a number of recent studies of minority programs and the careers of

NAACP is seeking to provide some cultural outlets for our children in Las Vegas. Bring your young people ages 13 through 20 years of age to the next meeting. These young people will be given the opportunity to choose the kind of social and cultural activities that best suit them. For further information call the Youth Council Coordinator Ruth Isaacs at 646-0220 or 646-1662.

-NAACP Youth Scholarships-

In addition to ACT/So, the NAACP has other scholarship programs to offer to the youth of Las Vegas. However, they are available only to those youth who have taken out membership in the NAACP one year in advance of making their application for a scholarship. I'm appealing to all readers of this article who have children or grandchildren between the ages of 13 and 20 years to come to the NAACP office Saturday at 2:00 p.m. and get involved.

aspiring minority physicians, as well as data from programs supported by The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. It outlines new information concerning strategies that enhance the success rates for admission of talented minority students to medical school.

This report is timely because we have observed a gradual diminution over the past decade in minority students being admitted to medical schools and because issues of equal educational opportunity are reemerging on the national agenda.

And this comes at a time when the overall qualifications of minority students are, in fact, much improved. The scores on the Medical College Admissions Test (MCAT), the major test for admission to medical school, have gone up for both majority and minority students, but the rate of increase has been greater for minority students than majority students over that time period.

Because minority medical applicants are, overall, better prepared than a decade ago, it's disturbing that proportionally fewer are being accepted. It raises real concerns about fairness for those desiring to become physicians and the access to care for underserved minority populations, whom minority physicians tend to serve. Institutions and society in general seem to place less emphasis on equal access.

Predictors of Success Identified

The success rates of minority medical students are high by any standard — more than 90 percent of those who enter graduate. They have become productive medical practitioners in many communities throughout this country.

So the numbers certainly don't support any notion of failure and in fact argue quite

strongly that the push for minority admissions was a highly successful "experiment."

Now, the issue is to make sure we maintain a highly qualified and large group of minority physicians to deliver health care, including to underserved minority communities. This means we have to pay attention to the front end of the system: namely, who is getting into medical school.

This doesn't say that minority physicians can only serve minority patients. It does underscore the need for a representative cadre of minority physicians who, in addition to providing their communities with a vital primary-care link into the health-care system, fill important leadership roles and serve as role models for youth; bridge cultural and language gaps, especially in underserved Native American, Mexican-American and Puerto Rican communities; and, importantly, provide a pool of recruits for medical-school faculties. Currently, minorities hold less than 3 percent of fulltime medical-school faculty positions.

We now know enough about strategies to attract and assist talented minority students toward successful health careers to design successful minority enrichment programs. The most effective strategies focus on improving academic skills, improving MCAT scores, identifying and encouraging the best candidates, providing role models and mentors and providing financial assistance.

We can reverse the downward trend in minority acceptance rates if institutions affirm a commitment to attracting minority students and, where indicated, providing resources so that the costs of attending medical school will not deter qualified students from pursuing medical careers.



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A PERSONAL INVITATION TO TEST YOURSELF

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PRELIMINARY COMPATIBILITY SCREENING—

1. I am easily irritated when required to stand in line.
2. My level of refinement is average.
3. Off-color language is embarrassing.
4. Perfection is often just an accident.
5. Most people would consider me unsophisticated.
6. I dislike having to get dressed up to go out.
7. Early hotel check-out times are annoying.
8. People place too much emphasis on sex these days.
9. Moral values are lower now than ever before.
10. Love and commitment should precede sex.