

BUSINESS IN THE BLACK

EQUAL HEALTHCARE HAS NOT BEEN AND IS NOT NOW AVAILABLE - AGING DEATH FOR AFRICAN AMERICAN MALES

By Charles E. Belle

A recent study indicates that half of all Americans fear the United States will suffer a depression similar to the one during the 1930's. Already in such an aftermath are aged African American men. Many of whom were born into poverty with its accompanying asthmatic style nutrition deficient diet. Even today millions of African American mothers mostly from their own lack of knowledge and uneducated nutritional ideas are giving birth to malnourished children. Campaigning by the current Secretary of Health and Welfare would do well to spend more time and money on making African American mothers more health conscious than anti-smoking. But, that political smoke screen bandwagon is easier to ride.

Ridiculous as it may seem, less than one-third of mothers who earn less than \$7,000 a year breast feed their babies. While over two-thirds (68%) of those earning more than \$25,000 a year to do breast feeding. Findings like this clearly indicate the heavy advertising toward this largely uneducated market, making them believe that the bottle formula is better for the baby than natural milk. Rates of breast feeding is lowest among African Americans. In fact, African American infants are twice

TAX TIPS

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repairs, rent, the utilities, and possibly the cost of remodeling. In your official capacity as business owner, partner, outside salesperson, or employee who picks up the tab for unreimbursed business expenses, you will purchase business supplies in personal environments. Trips to the grocery store may include paper, pencils, note books, etc. These deductions are lost unless they are separated from personal purchases and written down soon after they are made.

When the day of reckoning comes how your expenses are judged will be determined by your facts and circumstances. Next week we will discuss how to establish your tax deduction with good records.

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as likely as white infants to die in their first month of life.

In the event the African American male makes it through his twenties, the road gets rough again in his sixties. Since it is highly unlikely that he will retire from a major U.S. corporation with a healthcare plan, there is little protection from him in his later years. He is not alone in this position since 15% of all U.S. citizens have no health insurance and many millions more have only partial coverage. Only about three percent of U.S. companies provide long-term care (LTC) benefits. But then, few African American males can expect to take advantage of any LTC plans.

The reason is that African American men's life expectancy is not even at retirement age! A fact which can be traced to Reagan-Bush years in the White House. It formerly was at least over the regular retirement age at 65.2 years, but has dropped below to 64.9 years. This compared to the average white male's life expectancy which has been all the while on the increase up to 72.3 years. The Reagan years were indeed good for the white man!

Many people are publishing articles on the social problems and lifestyles of African Americans as the root cause of the continuing killing offered up as a singular cause of early death. Government statistical research indicates that almost half of African American women and a third of African American men are at least 20% over normal body

weight compared with about one-fourth of white men and women. The aerobic work-out rooms, luxury resort vacations and country club pools and golf

courses can make a difference! Another difference is the near doubling of "out of pocket" healthcare expense since 1977. The combination of the increased

cost for healthcare for the elderly et al, combined with the decrease in the income of the average African American male is a major contributor to the cut-

ting down of his life expectancy. Positive economic and education programs are needed for African Americans and not anti anything apartheid.

NEVADA'S UNEMPLOYMENT RATE DROPS

The Nevada seasonally-adjusted unemployment rate for December was 5.4 percent compared to 5.6 percent in November and 4.0 percent one year earlier. "The decline in the statewide unemployment rate is a positive indicator that the Nevada economy remains relatively strong, even though unemployment has increased," said State Employment Security Dept. Director Stan Jones. "When compared to the National rate of 6.1 percent and California at 7.1 percent it is a gauge of our economic strength," Jones commented.

The December unemployment rate for Las Vegas was 5.5 percent, from 5.7 in November but up from the December 1989 rate of 3.9 percent. Reno's jobless rate was 5.1 percent for December compared to 5.2 in November and 4.0 a year ago. In other Nevada counties, Churchill had the highest unemployment rate at 7.3 percent while Eureka was low at only 1.9 percent.

There were 37,100 unemployed Nevadans in December, up from 34,500 in November and 26,900 a year ago, Jones said. The Las Vegas area accounted for 22,900 unemployed, up from 21,700 in November and 15,500 one year ago. Reno's jobless count was 7,900 compared to 7,100 a month earlier and 6,100 a year earlier.

Our yearly rate of job growth continued to lead the nation at 5.9 percent for December, with a total 641,800 jobs registered statewide compared to 644,200 for the previous month and 606,300 a year ago, Jones said. Las Vegas counted 386,000 jobs

in December, down 800 from November but up 25,100 from December a year ago for a 7.0 percent growth rate. Reno employers provided 148,500 jobs in December, down 100 over the month and 3,600 more than a year ago for a 2.5 percent growth rate.

The service industries, including hotels, gaming and recreation, accounted for 270,600 jobs in December compared to 274,500 in November and 258,700 in December 1989. Jobs

in retail and wholesale trade numbered 136,400 for the month, up 1700 from November and 9,800 more than a year ago.

Employment in federal, state and local government, including education, accounted for 79,500 jobs in December, up 200 over the month and 5,200 over the year. Construction jobs were counted at 52,000 statewide in December compared to 52,600 in November and 49,100 a year ago. Jobs in transportation and public utilities numbered 33,500,

up 200 over the month and 1,900 over the year. Finance, insurance and real estate employment for December 27,700, down 100 over the month and up 1,800 over the year.

Manufacturing employment was 26,400 in December compared to 26,300 in November and 25,700 a year ago. Last, but not least, was mining with 15,700 jobs statewide in December, same as November but up 1,300 from last year at the same time for a respectable 9.0 percent growth rate.

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