



Boudin Too

Herman Thrower stays out of the limelight. Unless you are practically a native, you may not know him, at least not personally. If you're from Fordyce or Tallulah, or lived in Las Vegas over 15 years, he's probably familiar to you.

Who is he? He's a well-respected businessman who by today's standards is classified a definite success. I hadn't seen Thrower for some time until this past week when I stopped in by coincidence to look around one of his businesses, Desert Lounge and Market, only to find the busy entrepreneur on the premises with hammer in hand doing some interior remodeling work himself.

The lounge and market are two separate businesses under one roof—a bar and a grocery store. Thrower is currently installing a full-sized refrigerated meat and fish counter, just like the one at his other market on H Street in West Las Vegas.

When he saw me he stopped what he was doing and greeted me warmly. Before long he was showing me around while he talked about his future expansion plans. Modest, down-to-earth and easy-going, Thrower talked in earnest about his many struggles over the years to make his businesses prosper and grow.

Someday soon I'm going to build an addition to the lounge and market, big enough to handle large events," he exclaimed.

His conversation quickly turned to discussing the many careers he has launched, former employees who were butchers, clerks, and many others who he

hired and trained. Today, he still has a couple of dozen or more people working for him.

The real beauty of The Desert Lounge is its location, 2343 West Gowan Road (not too far from MLK and Cheyenne). When he first opened it more than 11 years ago, Desert Lounge was smack dab in the middle of the desert. I still have fond memories of the bid whist and domino tournaments held there.

You used to have to drive down a narrow, dusty dirt road to get to it. Now the lounge is surrounded by new homes and the roads are wide and paved.

Many of the local Black communities major social events used to be held there. One year, yours truly even installed officers of the Fordyce Club there during the group's annual bash.

I doubt very seriously if you'll ever see the Herman Thrower story on HBO, NBC or CBS. But it give me a nice feeling in the pit of my stomach to know that despite what we constantly here and see in the media there exists a man like him. Someone who defies the stereotypes that others have fabricated to falsely reflect us.

In a day and time when Asian entrepreneurs are overtaking our communities, it's reassuring to know that you can get crawfish, boudin and special soulful meats from a brother man. Isn't that the truth?

(By the way, in case you didn't know, boudin is a type of blood sausage that includes rice—a Cajun delicacy among Blacks in Louisiana).

To know is to grow. Until next week.

By James S. Tate, Jr., M.D.,
Co-Chair, NAARPR

Many of you may remember that close to one year ago or more, the issue of what was being done with the Medicaid program in Nevada was brought to the attention of the people. This was made necessary by the fact that the legislative subcommittee, which had been crafted by the Nevada State Legislature, had been slipped by those who were on guard duty and there was about to be a situation where the two so-called "federally qualified HMO's," HPN and FHP were to be handed the Medicaid contract to the exclusion of the traditional providers, who have provided care to Medicaid patients for the last 30 years, when others have refused to see Medicaid patients. By providers, I mean physicians and other health care personnel

who provide services i.e. providers.

The clear dishonesty of this move was made apparent because the two prime movers and shakers in the Nevada State Senate, who were attempting to deliver this to HPN and FHP were on HPN's payroll. A clear conflict of interest to me, but apparently not to the folks who decide, who spend quality time in Kansas (Leavenworth) who don't feel that this is a major problem. Oh well! During Medicaid Round II, the most recent wheeling and dealing in Carson City, the governor has been given the authority by the legislature to decide which managed care plan to put Medicaid patients under.

If nothing else, "blowing the whistle" on this deal gave the time for others to begin the application process to become

"federally licensed HMOs." Of course the federal government is apparently planning to stop licensing HMOs very shortly, but by placing very stringent requirements for applying for the Medicaid contracts, in essence what the state senate subcommittee, insurance commissioner, the two involved senators, and the governor have done is make it a done deal for HPN.

One might ask why this is going on? Well, it is simple economics, as things have gotten much tighter in the medical field in terms of reimbursement, each insurance company has scaled back what it is willing to pay for and how much it is willing to pay. Those fat commercial insurance carriers are now bloating their profits by refusing physicians a living wage.



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Therefore, Medicaid, which now pays better than most of commercial insurance, is a good way of ripping off some extra profits for the insurance company's CEO, who make mega-million dollar salaries ranging between 4 to 12+ million dollars a year, it is something that they seriously want to hold on to expand. For the life of me, I do not know why anyone in the insurance industry would be allowed to make \$121 million a year; that is clearly criminal. In the case of the Medicaid contract, there is some simple arithmetic, which everyone must understand; let's say the state gives HPN a contract which says it will pay \$100 a year for 100 patients, which is \$100 x 100, or \$10,000.

Further, let's suppose that most of those patients are fairly young, which most Medicaid patients are, and instead of using the \$100 per patient you can find a way of only using \$5. The (See NAARPR Report, Pg 4)

NLV...THE WESTSIDE STORY

A Room With A View

By R.K. Brown

Today, we often hear in the black community from whites, that they cannot understand why blacks don't trust the police. Well, if it weren't for a 400 year legacy of police brutality and misconduct, maybe minority communities would be more at ease with the "keepers of the law."

As black people, we must always remember that for the overwhelming majority of our nation's history, the police have been totally and completely racist and biased, when it comes to the minority communities in America.

Today, there are more black men in jail than there are any other place in the world! In all of Africa, where our general population is in the majority, we still don't find the catastrophic numbers of our people with their "room with a view." The one place where America has no

problem spending money on Black America is for penitentiary space.

We can't pay for school lunches, black mothers and children, or job equality; but we can pay for more prisons and cops to house more black bodies. The slave trade continues, except today, blacks have traded

slavery for bars and isolation!

...here is the real problem. Whites feel that the police are in the community to protect and serve. Getting cats out of trees, helping a stranded commuter with a flat tire, or responding to a 911 emergency call...for blacks, however, these same people's (See Westside Story, Page 4)

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