

TRAVEL:

A few tips on handling Las Vegas

By Louise Eccles
LAS VEGAS, Nev. — Affectionately dubbed 'Lost Wages' by those who know, this 24-hour-a-night town can be an ideal escape hatch from reality, if you know how to handle it.

You can plan your holiday in a number of ways: by booking a weekend or weekday package; by combining a cheap airfare with a hotel package; or by opting for a junket.

In the case of junkets, remember, nothing is free. With a junket, your airfare and hotel room are 'given' to you, courtesy of the hotel-casino. But, you must sign over money to the casino to the tune of \$1,000 on average, which each hotel-casino expects you to play — and, given the odds, lose — in their respective establishments.

In many cases, the hotels discriminate against women by refusing to allow them to book on a junket. The reason? The hotels believe that women, generally, don't risk their money on the table games, preferring to play the low-cost slot machines instead.

For those who do decide on a junket, keep in mind that there is a certain amount of pressure on you to play \$50 stakes on tables games such as craps and blackjack. So the chances are, unless you're really lucky with the dice or clever with your cards, you'll pay for the so-called free trip — and a lot more — by the end of the first night.

Las Vegas is roughly divided into two areas: the downtown core where the hotels are older and evoke an atmosphere of old-fashioned decadence; and The Strip, which is home to deluxe hotels and world famous entertainment.

The most famous Strip casinos are Caesar's Palace, the MGM Grand Hotel, the Flamingo Hilton, and the Aladdin. Glitter Gulch, the euphemism for the downtown centre, gives visitors a feel for the old

President's message is felt on our side

President Jimmy Carter's message on the gasoline shortage in the United States is having repercussions on both sides of the border.

Canadians are afraid to go south, fearing huge line-ups or worse, and U.S. drivers are scared to come north certain that we are in a similar situation.

Although it doesn't appear that the U.S. shortage has been blown out of all proportion, travellers can get advance information about gasoline availability.

All prospective guests booking Holiday Inn accommodation will get a resume of the gasoline situation within a five mile radius of the hotel when the reservation is confirmed.

New York State gasoline information is available through (516) 474-1461 between 8.30 a.m. and 5.30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Connecticut has a toll-free number when you call from states between Maine and Virginia. Dial (800) 243-1685. From Toronto you must pay the toll by calling (203) 566-3385.

In Missouri call (314) 751-3337. For information on gasoline availability in Utah, Arizona, California, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon and Wyoming call (800) 453-5794 toll free.

The American Automobile Association's affiliates will also give out information and each can be found in the telephone book of the area. Also, some individual tourist attractions have set up gasoline hot-lines.

The United States Travel Service suggests that travellers to the U.S. take along a spare tank of gas — and fill up before leaving Canada. Start looking for gasoline by mid-afternoon, especially on weekends. At night, and on weekends, look for stations out of town. Finally, be prepared to pay cash as many stations will not accept their own company credit cards.

Las Vegas with such places as the Four Queens, the Golden Nugget, and Del Webb's The Mint.

There are no clocks in Las Vegas, a basic psychological move that lulls you with the illusion of perpetual night and puts you in the mood to complacently part with your money. This image is buffered by the hotels, which use tinted windows to keep the sun out of the casinos during the day. This way, visitors don't confine their gambling to any set time or routine.

The effect is complete with the offer of free drinks as long as you're gambling, even for slot machine players. You don't have to order alcohol either (and it's advisable not to go overboard if you want to stay in control of your game) — you can get coffee, tea, soft drinks or even plain iced water.

It's customary to tip the cocktail waitress \$1 (yes, she accepts chips) as she works on her tips with a minimum base salary.

Here are some basic guidelines for you on how to play the games and still retain your sanity, humor, and some of your money.

Set yourself a quota of how much money you can afford to lose per night.

When you reach your self-imposed limit, do something else: go shopping in one of the many boutiques attached to the hotels; take in a show; or eat in one of the gourmet restaurants.

The minimum bet on all table games — poker, craps, baccarat, blackjack — is \$2 in most hotels, although one casino lets you play for as low as 25 cents and another has \$1 tables. The maximum stake on any one bet is \$500; if you want to risk more, a few hotels, such as Caesar's, have special rooms for gamblers who want to place high bets.

During the weekends, when junket crowds and commuters from Los Angeles are in abundance, the \$2 tables seem to disappear and the \$5 tables are more prevalent. Never gamble when you're tired, hungry or losing. If you lose three times in a row walk away from the game and sometimes out of the casino, a move that sometimes changes your luck. Never double up your bet when you're losing — you'll only lose what you have left twice as fast. If you're on a winning streak or 'hot,' don't be too timid to parley your bet (let your money stand and double).

The games that give you the best odds are craps and blackjack just behind. The worst odds are the slot machines, also known, appropriately, as one-armed bandits. These machines will spit out paltry jackpots at random but although a woman recently won the biggest fallout ever, few win back even the amount of money fed into these machines.

While there, you can go on a behind-the-scenes

tour of The Mint. You can watch the blackjack players, with whom, by this time, you commiserate, through one-way mirrors. You can also see how slot machines are repaired and learn just how long a shot you have at winning.

Las Vegas can't be considered the ideal family vacation spot because of the gambling and the undertones of prostitution and drinking, not to mention high crime rate arising out of this rather sordid undercurrent.

However, if you do want to take the children, book

one of The Strip hotels, most of which have game rooms for those under age (the legal age in Nevada is 21, not 18 as in Ontario). These games rooms offer pin ball, electronic television games, ping pong, bowling, and pool tables that give the kids the feel and thrill of gambling.

Be sure to take a sweater or jacket for strolling around or casino hopping. But the last word, given the character of Las Vegas, is to take half the clothes and twice the money!



Top associates of Family Trust will be off to Britain this fall as part of the real estates company's annual travel incentive program which was launched atop the CN Tower recently. Adding to the atmosphere were Tower of London Beefeater Clive Deverath, left, and cockney Penny Man Sidney Burstoff, second from right. They, along with Dorene Trunk, were representatives of British Airways. Representing the Richmond Hill office of Family Trust was Manager Doug Bennett, right.

CORBETT, MONTGOMERY & ASSOCIATES BARRISTERS & SOLICITORS

Carry on a General Practice of Law in:

- RICHMOND HILL
- STOUFFVILLE
- BRADFORD
- BARRIE
- NEWMARKET
- AURORA
- KESWICK
- BETON
- ANGUS
- ALLISTON

RESIDENT PARTNER IN RICHMOND HILL:

Stanley P. Fienberg Ph.D. LL.B.
 10255 Yonge Street
 883-5557

Auditor's Report to The York County Board of Education

We have examined the balance sheet of The York County Board of Education as at 31 December 1978, the Revenue Fund Statements of Operations, and the Capital Fund Statement of Operations for the year then ended. Our examination was made in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards, and accordingly included such tests and other procedures as we considered necessary in the circumstances.

In our opinion, these financial statements present fairly the financial position of the Board as at 31 December 1978 and the results of its operations for the year then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted for Ontario school boards applied on a basis consistent with that of the preceding year.

Woodward & Looney

Toronto, Ontario
 27 March 1979

CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS
 Licence No. 994

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 1978

	1978	1977
ASSETS		
CURRENT		
Cash	\$130,546	\$268,414
Investments, at cost	2,810,000	2,014,000
Accounts receivable		
Municipalities — under-requisitions	219,299	
— supplementary taxes, etc.	1,203,126	1,537,909
Other school boards	117,408	122,904
Government of Ontario	2,727,063	2,439,449
Government of Canada	19,485	8,899
Other	208,889	271,770
	7,435,816	6,663,345
CAPITAL OUTLAY TO BE RECOVERED IN FUTURE YEARS, note 1 (b)	37,240,058	37,514,032
	<u>\$44,675,874</u>	<u>\$44,177,377</u>
LIABILITIES		
CURRENT		
Bank loan	\$2,322,000	\$657,000
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities		
Municipalities — over-requisitions	80,062	101,592
Other school boards	59,904	9,235
Trade payables	5,476,592	4,650,428
	7,938,558	5,418,255
DEFERRED INCOME	42,752	53,443
NET LONG-TERM LIABILITIES		
Unmatured debenture debt, notes 1(c) and 4 (b)	34,893,138	36,904,253
Reserve for WORKING FUNDS, Note 2....	1,801,426	1,801,426
	<u>\$44,675,874</u>	<u>\$44,177,377</u>
CONTINGENT LIABILITIES, note 3		
COMPARATIVE FIGURES, note 5		

REVENUE FUND STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS FOR ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PURPOSES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 1978

	ELEMENTARY		SECONDARY	
	1978	1977	1978	1977
EXPENDITURE				
Business administration	\$ 800,896	\$ 765,441	\$ 547,829	\$ 518,200
Computer services	126,597	119,783	84,398	79,856
Instruction	28,717,875	26,989,427	28,664,521	26,168,122
Educational services	827,818	752,785	423,017	416,184
Attendance, health and food services	42,363	38,744	164,604	137,003
Plant operations and maintenance	5,521,893	4,699,932	4,356,845	3,990,867
Transportation	1,999,311	1,803,063	1,520,047	1,305,701
Tuition fees	110,596	79,718	46,375	31,670
Capital expenditures (non-allocable)	40,275	77,132	8,064	25,791
Other operating expenditures	183,549	191,762	167,004	202,733
Debt charges and capital loan interest, note 5(a)	3,005,577	2,951,888	2,487,073	2,480,264
Non-operating expenditure, excluding transfers to reserves	266,337	192,933	218,668	200,314
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	41,643,077	38,662,608	38,688,445	35,556,705
RECOVERY OF EXPENDITURE				
Other school boards-tuition fees and miscellaneous	67,826	101,650	75,772	76,347
Government of Ontario - tuition fees and miscellaneous	504,560	415,127	475,396	405,062
Government of Canada	19,641	3,536	5,565	28,750
Individuals-tuition fees	7,753	9,975	221,141	214,465
Other revenue, excluding transfers from reserves	127,519	139,933	282,109	282,050
	727,299	670,221	1,059,983	1,006,674
NET EXPENDITURE	\$40,915,778	\$37,992,387	\$37,628,462	\$34,550,031
FINANCING OF NET EXPENDITURE				
Government of Ontario-General Legislative Grants	\$18,485,309	\$18,879,115	\$16,150,159	\$15,714,051
Local taxation				
Previous year's over (under) requisition	101,592	(200,000)	—	600,000
Local taxation raised in current year	22,408,939	19,414,864	21,259,004	18,341,035
Decrease (increase) in reserves	—	—	(105,055)	—
	40,995,840	38,093,979	37,409,163	34,550,031
To be applied to following year's taxation				
Net under (over) requisition	(80,062)	(101,592)	219,299	—
	<u>\$40,915,778</u>	<u>\$37,992,387</u>	<u>\$37,628,462</u>	<u>\$34,550,031</u>

CAPITAL FUND STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 1978

	1978	1977
CAPITAL EXPENDITURE		
Fixed Assets and Work in Progress		
Buildings	\$2,274,438	\$802,785
Furniture and equipment	367,364	526,218
School sites	154,245	132,558
	2,796,047	1,461,561
Less: Federal sales tax refund	7,646	1,686
TOTAL CAPITAL EXPENDITURE	\$2,788,401	\$1,459,875
CAPITAL FINANCING		
Unexpended capital funds at beginning of Year, or (Balance at beginning of year not permanently financed)		
Elementary	(\$431,434)	(\$165,958)
Secondary	(184,346)	251,300
Long term liabilities issued and sold	780,000	185,000
Capital expenditure from revenue fund	290,945	573,753
Transfer to revenue fund	(19,684)	—
Balance at end of year not permanently financed		
Elementary	2,348,729	431,434
Secondary	4,191	184,346
	<u>\$2,788,401</u>	<u>\$1,459,875</u>

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 31 DECEMBER 1978

1. SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

- The following is a summary of significant accounting policies of the Board:
- (a) Accrual Accounting: The accrual method for reporting revenue and expenditure has been used with the exception of reporting of charges for net long-term liabilities. Principal and interest charges are not accrued from the due date of payment to the end of the fiscal year.
 - (b) Fixed Assets: Expenditure for fixed assets is charged to current expenditure unless financed by long-term debt. Principal and interest charges on long-term liabilities are included in expenditure in the period due.
 - (c) Long-Term Liabilities: Fixed assets, described as capital outlay to be recovered in future years, are included on the Balance Sheet only to the extent of the balances of the related long-term liabilities outstanding and of the related temporary financing at the end of the fiscal year.

2. RESERVE FOR WORKING FUNDS

The reserve for working funds at 31 December 1978 is applicable to the elementary and secondary school operations of the Board as follows:

	1978	1977
Elementary	\$ 611,807	\$ 611,807
Secondary	1,189,619	1,189,619
	<u>\$1,801,426</u>	<u>\$1,801,426</u>

3. CONTINGENT LIABILITIES

- (a) Sick Leave Benefits: Under the sick leave benefit plan, employees are not entitled to a cash payment when they leave the Board's employment.
- (b) Contractual Obligations: The Board has entered into contractual obligations for completion of school projects on a continuing basis.

4. DEBT CHARGES AND CAPITAL LOAN INTEREST

(a) Current Expenditure: The revenue fund expenditure for debt charges and capital loan interest includes principal and interest payments as follows:

	1978		1977	
	Elementary	Secondary	Total	Total
Long-term liabilities				
Principal	\$1,542,466	\$1,248,648	2,791,114	\$2,666,431
Interest	1,381,892	1,238,425	2,620,317	2,752,437
Interest on temporary financing	81,219	—	81,219	13,284
	<u>\$3,005,577</u>	<u>\$2,487,073</u>	<u>\$5,492,650</u>	<u>\$5,432,152</u>

(b) Net Long-Term Liability Repayments: Of the net long-term liabilities outstanding of \$34,893,138, principal amounting to \$14,004,469 plus interest amounting to \$10,465,113 is payable over the next five years as follows:

	1978		1977	
	Principal	Interest	Total	Total
1979	\$2,742,995	\$2,470,418	\$5,213,413	
1980	2,862,865	2,285,948	5,148,813	
1981	2,729,592	2,092,371	4,821,963	
1982	2,804,685	1,905,230	4,709,915	
1983	2,864,332	1,711,146	4,575,478	
	<u>\$14,004,469</u>	<u>\$10,465,113</u>	<u>\$24,469,582</u>	

5. COMPARATIVE FIGURES

Certain comparative figures in the balance sheet have been reclassified to conform with current presentation.

W. Donald Couzens
 Chairman of the Board

S.L.G. Chapman
 Director of Education