

1 The driver and his assistant graciously
2 took me to Atlantic City Medical Center, where I spent
3 the next 5-1/2 weeks undergoing two surgeries, which
4 resulted in a plate and ten screws in my right leg.
5 That plate will go with me to my grave.

6 Had it not been for my union health
7 insurance, which covered all my hospital expenses and
8 my doctor bills, which needless to say were
9 astronomical, we surely would have been bankrupt.

10 Through employment offered by the casinos,
11 we now own outright our own home, plus a second rental
12 property, and there are two cars and a truck in our
13 garage, also free and clear.

14 None of these amenities, indeed, a secure
15 and comfortable life style, would have been possible
16 if casino gambling had not come to Atlantic City.

17 MS. MANNIS: My name is Taria Manns, and I'm
18 a native of Atlantic City. I am currently employed by
19 the Atlantic City Hilton, where I've worked in the
20 capacity as a cocktail server for the past seven
21 years. I am a union shop steward and maintain a
22 position on the Grievance Committee, and I've been a

1 member of Local 54 for about 15 years.

2 I had my first experience and pleasure
3 working in the first house which was Resorts
4 International back in 1978, the summer of my senior
5 year, where I worked as a cocktail server. That fall
6 I attended Fairleigh Dickinson University, and every
7 summer I came home, right to the casino I went, only
8 because the job market was vast and booming and the
9 money was right.

10 At the end of my third year in college, I
11 returned to the resort because of lack of financial
12 backing, and became a bunny at the Playboy Casino.
13 After several years as a bunny, I left the casino and
14 landed a municipal position, which eventually didn't
15 have enough money in the budget so I had to seek other
16 means of employment.

17 During this time, I also had my first
18 child, and met with some untimely levels of hardship.
19 Here I was with a child, needing benefits for him and
20 myself, because I am a chronic asthmatic, and had
21 little or next to no money.

22 This then forced me back into the industry,

1 the hours were viable, money was there to be made, and
2 the benefits were excellent. I think this is when I
3 really gained a lot of respect for the industry,
4 because it was there at a very crucial time of my
5 life.

6 I eventually got married and now have a
7 second child. The casinos have allowed me to continue
8 my education, I leave my husband caring for the
9 children when I work my 4:00 a.m., to 10:00 a.m.
10 shift I feel no need to worry. This also allows him
11 to work his day job.

12 Now, on my days off I substitute
13 kindergarten through 12th grade. Only in the casino
14 industry could you find a job with such flexible
15 hours. I still have my childhood memories, which I
16 can share with my children and my grandchildren, of
17 the Steel Pier and the high diving horse, the Million
18 Dollar Pier, the Italian Water Ice and the Italian
19 villages located where the Ocean I Mall is now.

20 I remember the surfers in the inlet, and
21 best of all I remember the Sunday pony rides on the
22 beach after church. That's what memories are for.

1 Let's create some new ones. Times have changed and I
2 welcome the change. I believe the casinos have
3 brought a lot of help to our town and truly has helped
4 me and my family.

5 Have a good day, and thank you.

6 MR. BREEDON: Hello, how you doing.
7 Welcome to Atlantic City, America's playground.

8 I'd like to talk about the impact of casino
9 gaming on myself and my family. Let's go back to the
10 early '70s, before the referendum passed.

11 My mother worked at a place called the
12 Sheraton Doverville, and she worked there maybe three
13 months out of the year, during the summer, of course,
14 and then during the winter if a convention were coming
15 to town she would go again. But, most of the time it
16 was unemployment.

17 My father was an electrician in the trades,
18 and could find work, he would travel two to three
19 hours to get work, but that wasn't much of the time.
20 Most of the time, unemployment was a way of life in my
21 family.

22 I can remember being ten, 11 years old, and