

What no one tells you about the carpet of a casino

by Michael P. Johnson

Is it a psychological mind game or is it all hooey?

I've been in the casino industry for over fifteen years. In that time, I've lived and breathed casino surveillance.

In my position, you see a lot of strange things and you hear a lot of strange tales. Some of these tales come directly from the ones who sit next to you.

After a while, many things that you see and hear which might seem out of the ordinary to most is a little like water off a duck's back. You know, it seems normal.

Forever, people have said there are psychological mind games going on within the confines of a casino. I know I've heard this for years. Is it true? Maybe, maybe not.

For example, someone playing a slot machine for hours on end forgets to take their medication and ends up having a grand mal seizure. Another person may forget to eat and their blood sugar drops, sending them into diabetic shock.

Is it possible there is a reason behind this?

Could it be people are dropping like flies due to simply not having a clock on the wall to look at like so many says? Possibly.

However, everyone has a cell phone nowadays. Many people have wrist watches. An argument can be made that many do not pay close attention to the time, as they are distracted by all the bells and whistles of the slots.

Makes you think.

But is there a secret behind the carpet?

Hundreds of people walk through the doors of a casino during any given hour on the Las Vegas strip. Most do not notice the un-Godly looking carpet beneath their feet as they walk. Is there a reason why the carpet looks the way it does?

Let us analyze this a bit.

Many people, experts we might call them, have given their two cents as to why the carpet looks the way it does.

Some say the carpet is supposed to keep you gambling. Diverting your attention from the floor keeps one looking straight ahead and to the gaming tables and slot machines. With ugly carpet, your eyes won't wander down to the floor. Okay, that's reasonable.

Another theory that has been mentioned and is rather silly is that the carpet camouflages table chips when they are dropped. Supposedly, after someone drops a chip, the chip then can miraculously find its way into a housekeeper's vacuum cleaner and back to the house.

There is a problem with this theory. When someone drops ANYTHING; cash, coin, chip... if the person who dropped said item does not recover it immediately, someone else standing nearby will certainly pick the item off the floor QUICKLY... like Scooby Doo to a Scooby-Snack. So, this theory is a myth.

Some think too much into the design of casino carpets. When designers are creating these masterpieces, they are considering the overall design of the casino itself.

For instance, there are many other attributes which lend itself toward creating a carpet. The colors in the furniture, the chandeliers, artwork, structures, and themes all factor into what makes a great carpet. The designer wants everything to work together nicely.

One of the biggest and simplest reasons carpets look the way they do is the idea that casinos need carpets that HIDE STAINS.

Many would never believe that blood, vomit, urine, and every other bodily fluid known makes its way onto the carpet at some point in time. When this occurs, it is better to have something on the floor that can easily mask the problem until the carpet can be replaced. Disgusting, I know.

So, in closing, there really is no secret behind the design of your casino carpets. It's fun to theorize and talk about how the carpet is really playing head games with the patrons, but in the end, it's not as exciting as you may think.