

Downey Regional Medical Center, which has seen its uninsured patient load double during the last year and whose emergency room is now losing a quarter of a million dollars a month. Also witnessing the doubling of its uninsured in 2004 is California Hospital near downtown Los Angeles. Although the hospital has refused to make public the monetary loss suffered by its emergency room, which treats mostly illegal aliens, the estimate is \$10-15 million a year. If the emergency rooms of Good Sam and California Hospital close, the effect would reverberate throughout central Los Angeles and perhaps overwhelm the remaining emergency facilities in the inner city.

Even with the recent closures, the problem facing the surviving emergency facilities is not always one of capacity. There are several hospitals in Los Angeles County that have the room and personnel to absorb more patients. What they cannot absorb are more nonpaying patients, and such patients have doubled and even tripled during the last year alone at dozens of emergency rooms in southern California.

Under federal law, emergency rooms cannot deny treatment to those in need. Once stabilized, however, indigent patients can be transferred from private hospitals to county hospitals. In Los Angeles County, this usually means transfer to one of four county-run hospitals, including Los Angeles County Hospital, or treatment at one of dozens of small county clinics. With large budget deficits itself, the county has recently closed 16 of the clinics and made the transfer process to its hospitals far more difficult. Moreover, transfers have always depended on availability of beds. If the county hospitals are full, then patients stay in the private hospitals where they originally received treatment. Since the maternity wards at the county hospitals are often full or nearly so, illegal aliens

**As part of the antiterrorism high alert before the presidential elections, the FBI has been canvassing immigrant neighborhoods and has been involved in a process known as "shaking the trees."**

Persons who have appeared on lists of suspects but who have committed no crimes are being stopped at airports either leaving from or arriving in the U.S. and are being called on at their homes or places of business, where they are subjected to intensive questioning. There are still no so-called al-Qaeda sleeper cells identified in the U.S., but law enforcement is working on the assumption that such cells must exist and that persons who have been suspected in the past are either members of those cells or associated in some way with others who may be. Intelligence analysts still do not have any credible information that al-Qaeda will strike the U.S. before the elections, but even highly speculative leads are being pursued. In early October, the Department of Homeland Security warned a number of school districts to be on alert based on the discovery of information in an Iraqi computer providing the layouts of a number of American schools. Subsequent investigation determined that the computer belonged to an Iraqi civil engineer working on the plans for new Iraqi schools as part of a reconstruction project.



**The undeclared warfare between the CIA and the Bush administration has continued despite the arrival of Porter Goss as Director of Central Intelligence.**

On Sept. 28, at the Vice President's request, the Agency provided a special briefing on the subject of Jordanian terrorist Mu'sab al-Zarqawi. The CIA's Counter Terrorism Center (CTC) reviewed all of the available intelligence on the subject and based its briefing on a just completed comprehensive intelligence analysis. The CTC concluded that Saddam Hussein had not materially supported Zarqawi before the U.S.-led invasion and that Zarqawi's infrastructure in Iraq before the war was confined to the northern no-fly zones of Kurdistan, beyond Baghdad's reach. Cheney reacted with fury, screaming at the briefer that CIA was trying to get John Kerry elected by contradicting the president's stance that Saddam had supported terrorism and therefore needed to be overthrown. The hapless briefer was shaken by the vice president's outburst, and the incident was reported back to Goss, who indicated that he was reluctant to confront the vice president's staff regarding it. Goss was sent to CIA by the president with instructions to get the place under control and stop the leaking. The White House had earlier been upset by the leak of the most recent National Intelligence Estimate stating that things were not going well in Iraq. The choice of Goss as director was opposed by some of CIA's management, who claimed he was too political. As a result of the sniping, Goss will have to navigate carefully between protecting the integrity of the intelligence process and serving his boss, the president. Reform of the Agency, once seen as a hot-button issue, though only embraced tepidly by Goss, will be a secondary consideration.

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understand that once they are admitted to a private hospital, their chances of transfer are slim.

Nurses have told me that pregnant illegal aliens, some as young as 14 or 15, know how to manipulate the system. Because of superior care and conditions, the girls prefer private hospitals. Waiting until they are having regular contractions or their water has broken, they suddenly arrive at an emergency room. With birth imminent, the hospitals are required to admit them. A nurse said she was on duty one evening when a pregnant girl was brought in by her boyfriend and the hospital refused her admission because all signs suggested

rooms, trauma centers, and health clinics. Mercifully, Proposition 67 has not generated much support and appears destined to fail. Evidently inspired by Hillary Clinton, many argue that a nationalized system of health care is the answer.

Congress has recently addressed the problem. As part of the Medicare Act of 2003, \$1 billion has been allocated over four years to reimburse hospitals for the care of illegal aliens. Republican Congressman Dana Rohrabacher of Orange County proposed that the funding be conditional upon the willingness of hospitals to report illegal aliens. Although Republicans control the House, Rohrabacher's proposal was defeated 331 to 88.

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birth was many hours away. The couple then went out to the parking lot and waited, reappearing every hour or two. Sometime late at night she attained the required dilation and was whisked to a private room. The nurse said she saw versions of this event dozens of times.

If the illegal aliens are costing private hospitals tens of millions of dollars for health care and forcing the closure of emergency rooms, they are also costing counties in California hundreds of millions. Estimates for Los Angeles County vary widely but some county officials have put it at upwards of \$500 million a year. Any reasonable person would suggest that the way to deal with this crushing burden on the hospitals, public and private, is to deport illegal aliens. Instead, Proposition 67 is on the ballot in California for the November election. The initiative would impose a 3 percent tax on telephone bills—the proliferation of cell phones has whetted leftist appetites for this new tax—to subsidize emergency

Nonetheless, a clause was added to the Medicare bill requiring that regulations be established for funding. In late July, the regulations were announced: hospitals are supposed to make a good-faith effort to determine the immigration status of uninsured patients by asking the following questions: Are you a United States citizen? Are you a lawful permanent resident, an alien with a valid current employment authorization card, or other qualified alien? Are you in the United States on a non-immigrant visa? Are you a foreign citizen who has been admitted to the United States with a 72-hour border-crossing card? Hospitals would then keep the answers and patient identification on file for federal auditors.

Sounds reasonable, but a storm of protest by the usual immigration advocacy groups swept across Washington almost immediately. The National Council of La Raza claimed that Latinos would be “unfairly targeted” and that parents “will be terrified to seek care for

their children.” If so, this will be the first thing that has terrified them. Entering the country illegally, working illegally, driving illegally, and collecting benefits illegally do not seem to have instilled any fear.

Hospital organizations also opposed the regulations. Hospitals want federal money but not the paperwork. They do not say this, of course. The California Healthcare Association and similar organizations speak of public-health risks increasing because illegal aliens with communicable diseases will be afraid to seek treatment. Isn't this why, throughout our history, immigrants were checked for disease at ports of entry and quickly sent home if found to be infected? The regulations were supposed to go into effect Sept. 1, and funds were finally released on Oct. 1—without the requirement that hospitals ask about immigration status.

President Bush's anticipated amnesty has caused the number of illegal immigrants crashing the border to increase by tens of thousands. Not surprisingly, these same immigrants, sooner or later, show up at emergency rooms. With little money and less English, they receive the finest medical care our country can offer and do so without the paperwork that burdens the rest of us.

A few years ago my wife and I had to rush our daughter to the emergency room at our local hospital in Thousand Oaks. We have only a small population of illegal aliens in our town, but a quarter or more of those in the emergency room were clearly recent arrivals from south of the border. While I filled out reams of paperwork and had my insurance cards photocopied, the illegal aliens did little but get treated. Next time the family's going in disguise and muttering, “No hablo Ingles.” ■

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# The Old Ballgame

Baseball returns to Washington but not to greatness

By Mark Gauvreau Judge

AT THE RISK OF BEING IMMODEST, I have a proposal for the stadium to be built as the home of Washington's new baseball team: put a statue of my grandfather at the entrance. Joe Judge played first base for the Washington Senators from 1915 to 1932, and his stats alone justify a statue—in his 19 years in major league baseball he had a .298 batting average, 2,352 hits, 433 doubles, 1,037 RBI, and over 1,500 double plays. He hit .385 in the 1924 World Series, the only one Washington ever won. But he should be honored for what he was: a gentleman ballplayer, like his friend and contemporary, the great pitcher Walter Johnson.

Today Johnson would probably be diagnosed with acute social anxiety, but they used to call that shyness and self-respect. He refused to take credit for victories or blame other players for losses—in fact, he didn't even like winning if it was done on the cheap. At the end of the 1908 season, the Senators had a chance to avoid the bottom of the standings for the first time since they were founded in 1901. The Philadelphia Athletics arrived in Washington on Sept. 11 for a five-game series, and if Washington could win a game, they would land in seventh rather than eighth place. During the opener, Johnson faced a young player named "Shoeless" Joe Jackson, playing in his second major league game. Jackson, who would become infamous in the 1919 Black Sox scandal, got one of the nine hits the Athletics managed off Johnson. The Senators won 2-1, ending the season in seventh rather than last place, but rather than gloating over

the victory, Johnson turned attention to Jackson, calling him "the greatest natural hitter I ever saw." He felt that Washington hadn't deserved to win against Philadelphia because the Senators hadn't played very well. Ed Grillo, a reporter for the *Washington Post*, was impressed by this admission. He wrote of Johnson, "There is something about this boy aside from his ability as a pitcher, that makes him popular with patrons of the game. He is absolutely honest in everything he does. He never complains of the umpires' decisions and is modest to a fault, believing that his teammates, more than himself, are entitled to the credit for what his team accomplishes when he is playing."

Years later, Grillo would witness another episode of Johnson's embarrassment at winning ugly. In a close game, the Senators let three men on base due to errors, and Johnson had to strike out the next three. Heading back

Unlike Johnson, Joe Judge is largely forgotten. He was not the kind of player, or the kind of man, who drew attention to himself, and while his statistics are worthy of the Hall of Fame, they are not as jaw-dropping as Johnson's, who once pitched three full games against the Yankees in four days, winning every game. Family, friends, and sportswriters describe my grandfather as polite, taciturn, unassuming, humble. A 1925 article in *Baseball* magazine described him as "the sheet anchor of the Washington infield." Off the field, Judge was saintly in his sarcasm and even temper.

His baseball career lasted from 1915 to 1934, which means it partly took place in the "dead ball era" before the 1920s. He learned to play a game that was about singles, bunts, fielding, and defense, not the loud, vulgar, pyrotechnic power spectacle that baseball became in the 1920s with the arrival of

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to the dugout he kept his head down. "Look at him!" Senators' manager Joe Cantillon said. "He's ashamed he did it!" Not surprisingly, Johnson was voted the most popular player in the *Washington Post* poll of 1908, but no one remembers why he was so beloved. Nobody talks about him as a gentleman, probably because few know what one is anymore.

Babe Ruth, a gigantic talent and an out-sized personality, the forerunner of today's spoilt athlete. "The route to the common man's heart is paved with ribaldry and excess," baseball historian Harold Seymour wrote of Ruth's hold on baseball fans. "What English king was more famous than Henry VIII?" One reporter noted, "Ruth is just a great, big,