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IN MY VIEW

Don't point fingers

'Not just a Syrian problem; we are all scapegoats'

BY DAVID BIBI

The way the Jewish papers and blogs wrote about the recent arrests in New Jersey requires some comment. One expects mis-statements and exaggerations from the international media, but do the Jewish papers need to follow suit? Rumor had become perceived fact, as so often happens. What happened to *dan lekaf sechut* — giving the benefit of the doubt — and innocent until proven guilty?

Rabbi Noah Weinberg z"l tells of what he calls "A Jewish consciousness story."

"Three rabbis are accused of succumbing to compassion. Was there personal gain for any of them? I highly doubt it."

A gregarious son parrying each night brags to his father that he can count 100 true friends. The father congratulates his son, noting that in all his life, he has only achieved half a friend. The father suggests a test. "Take a goat, slaughter it,

put it into a sack, get some blood on you and in the middle of the night go to your friends," the father says. "Tell them you got into a fight with a guy at the bar, one thing led to another and you killed him. Beg them to help."

As so the son goes to each of those friends and all slam the door in his face. Dejected, he returns to his father and asks what the father's half friend would do. His father tells him to go and see.

In the middle of the night, still holding the sack and covered in blood, the son knocks at his father's friend's home. He tells the same story. And the half-friend hesitates, saying, "Although I shouldn't do this, you're Chaim's son, and I'll help you."

They take the sack and bury it together.

The boy returns to his father in shock.

The story continues and the father explains that a true friend would never

See VIEW, Page 5

Rabbi David Bibi leads the Sephardic Congregation of Long Beach. He can be reached at DavidBibi@gmail.com.



Girls at this year's session of Camp Simcha Special making a run for it through a gauntlet of friends and staff members. Photo courtesy Chai Lifeline

Summer in Camp Simcha Special

What summer is like for the doctors

BY MICHAEL ORBACH

Dr. Robert Van Amerongen's patients have kidney diseases, cerebral palsy, hydrocephalus and familial dysautonomia — a rare disorder that causes a failure in the

autonomic nervous system. Some patients suffer from conditions that so far doctors have been unable to diagnose. And this isn't a hospital; it's a summer camp.

But then again, Camp Simcha Special, a See CAMP SIMCHA, Page 8

Racing the clock after a heart attack

Balloon angioplasty and the 90-minute deadline

BY MALKA EISENBERG

As the EMT's roll the heart attack patient out of their ambulance and the wheels of the stretcher are locked into place, a clock begins to tick.

For patients who require balloon angioplasty to open a blocked artery, the clock moves even faster. During the procedure a balloon-tipped tube is threaded through to the heart, where it is inflated to clear plaque that is blocking or partially blocking an artery. However, research has demonstrated that the procedure is most effective when performed within 90 minutes of a patient's arrival at the hospital.

"We know it improves mortality," said Dr. Jason Freeman, director of interventional cardiology at South

Nassau Communities Hospital. "If you open up the blood vessel for them within 90 minutes, patients die less and live more."

South Nassau Communities Hospital is among the 569 hospitals awarded a Gold Medal in coronary artery disease from the American Heart Association/American Stroke Association's Get With The Guidelines program. This program ascertains that hospitals comply with current protocol for cardiac and stroke patients.

Rabbi Elizer Kanner, coordinator for Hatzalah of Nassau County and the Rockaways, said that Hatzalah transports most heart attack patients to South Nassau.

"It's requested by the community at large," Rabbi Kanner explained. "Balancing closeness and care, this is See RACING, Page 7



Clowning from coast to coast

The Five Towns-based medical clowning troupe Lev Leytzan is busy in Budapest this week, leasing smiles from the elderly and infirm on a 10-day mission of mercy to Europe. Last Thursday the teen and young adult clowns, led by the group's founder, Woodmere psychologist Dr. Neal Goldberg, appeared on the CBS Early Show on the CBS Television Network. This Monday they were profiled on local television, in a piece by WCBS-TV reporter Cindy Hsu.

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