

LETTERS

Picnic with handgun?

Regarding "Police arrest man in fatal shooting / Gang violence at Mission Bay worries residents, officials" (B-1, June 17):

I just don't understand the thinking of some folks here. Nice weekend day in San Diego, so let's go to the beach. OK, pack the picnic lunch, the ice chest; don't forget the cold beverages. And, oh yeah, the handgun.

Just what kind of thinking is involved that makes someone want to bring a handgun for a picnic/celebration? What is going through people's minds that causes one to think, "Oh yeah, pack the handgun today, we're going to Mission Bay"?

GENE CARMAN
San Diego

Fraud investigations may save Medicare

I have read with interest the stories of health-care fraud investigations in Southern California. Unfortunately for all of us, some are willing to cheat the system (in the case of billing fraud) or deceive the public (in the case of kick-backs).

Some health-care workers feel that, despite this government work on our behalf in fighting fraud, the system is unduly burdensome in regulation and prone to punish even the hard-working and law-abiding doctors, nurses and medical administrators.

We must be very careful to enforce the law in a judicious and nonpartisan fashion. But in the past 17 years our U.S. government has recovered about \$15 billion in the fight against health-care fraud (mostly in Medicare). I'm grateful public officials are working to try to keep the system honest. This may be the only way there will be Medicare benefits for all of us when we retire.

ADAM F. DORIN, M.D.
San Diego

ing raised by government employees to back Gov. Gray Davis' sales tax boost from a base of 7.75 percent to 8.25 percent.

Gee, government employees coming out for more taxes. How rare!

J. CRAIG HERMAN
Encinitas

Sharon to blame for continued killing

Trudy Rubin's conclusion "And the killing will not end" (Opinion, June 14) overlooks that it had ended.

No Israelis were killed during 14 months prior to October 2000. Peace talks were ongoing, if slow. It was Ariel Sharon, accompanied by six Likud Party members and several hundred police, who ended peace by touring the highly sensitive Temple Mount site.

During riots the following two days, 20 Palestinians and one Israeli were killed. Thereafter for three months the average killings each week were 25 Palestinians and 3 Israelis. It's difficult to demonstrate a commitment to fight terrorism when there's peace. This reversed Sharon's slide in the polls, winning him election to prime minister.

Sharon restarted terror. Now Arafat's foolish terrorists give him justification to pound hard all Palestinians. Killings total about three times more Palestinians than Israelis, and the killing will not end.

STAN LOGUE
San Diego

Bush blurring the line between church and state

In the May 28 letter "Why only protest stories on Christians," the author states that he is mystified "that reports of Christians' activities and programs seem to be such a threat to so many people" and that he is not at all concerned with reports from the Jewish, Muslim and "other religious com-