

# County DIGEST



March 31, 1994

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES



*John Hill*

## NEW AFFIRMATIVE ACTION HEAD LEAPS OVER ADVERSITY, HITS TOP POST

**A**fter his fourth birthday, John Hill worked as a migrant farm worker and picked crops from Indio to Oregon.

As one of nine children born into tough times, the County's new Affirmative Action Compliance Officer dreamed of a better life.

"I always wanted an education," he said, during a recent interview. "I knew it was my only way out."

With nonstop persistence, his dreams turned to reality. After four years in the Air Force, Hill picked up an undergraduate business degree from the University of San Francisco and an MBA from the

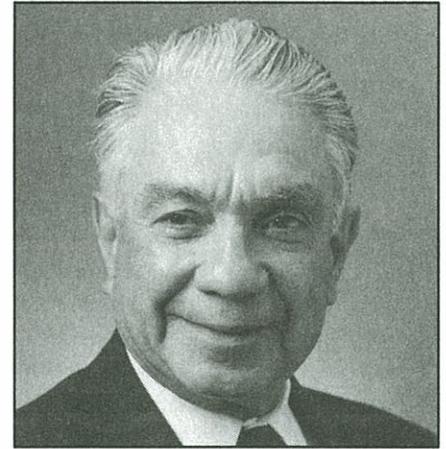
*(Continued on page 2)*

## DE LEON STEPS IN AS OMBUDSMAN

**R**udolph De Leon, a retired Los Angeles Police Department Captain, was picked March 1 to head the Sheriff's new Office of Ombudsman.

The unanimous selection by the Board of Supervisors was in response to recommendations developed by the Kolts Commission in the wake of community complaints about the use of excessive force.

In his role, De Leon reports



*Rudolph De Leon*

directly to Sheriff Sherman Block and the Board of Supervisors.

His responsibilities include assuring that citizen complaints

*(Continued on page 3)*



## GETTING READY TO WALK

Employees can step out against birth defects April 23 when the County's 9th Annual March of Dimes WalkAmerica gets underway at Griffith Park in Los Angeles. Last year, more than 1,700 County employees turned out for the event. Anyone wanting to volunteer with registration, checking in

finishers, or as cheerleaders to encourage walkers, call Mary Sherman-Jones, Department of Public Social Services, 310-908-8412. For additional information, call March of Dimes representative Jennifer Nickerson at 818-953-3929.

# EARTHQUAKE SURVIVAL PROGRAM

## MARCH:

### ADD FOUNDATION BOLTS

**B**y bolting a house to its foundation, a homeowner can avoid massive structure damage during an earthquake.

That's the March message from the County's Earthquake Survival Program, which issues monthly tips to help folks prepare for the Big One.

According to ESP Program Manager Joyce Harris, most but not all houses built after 1960 are secure. Houses built prior to that probably are not.

In an earthquake, houses not bolted down can slip, damaging the structure, its contents and rupture a gas line. Fires can break out.

To determine whether your house is secure, call the local building department and ask when codes requiring the bolting of houses were adopted or examine the sill plate for bolts that tie your house to the foundation.

Additional information about foundation bolting and cripple wall bracing is available in the step-by-step how-to video *An Ounce of Prevention...Strengthening Your Wood Frame Home for Earthquake Safety* and the accompanying handbook with the same title. Contact your local library, Office of Emergency Services or building department to borrow a copy.

## CHILD CARE EXAMINED, DISCUSSED IN WEEK-LONG CELEBRATION

**C**hild care gets the County spotlight April 18 - 23 during the Week of the Young Child, a national celebration focusing public attention on children's rights and needs.

Cosponsored by the Board of Supervisors and the Child Care Advisory Board, events include:

April 18 — 9 a.m. to noon, Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration, Board Hearing Room, 500 W. Temple St., Los Angeles. Hedy Chang of California Tomorrow discusses Children, Families and Culture in early care and education. Coffee and networking starts at 9 a.m. in room 739. The presentation begins at 10 a.m. in the Board

Hearing Room. Reservations are requested for this free event.

April 20 — 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.

Tour a County employee child care program near you.

April 21 — 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., County Office of Education, 9300 E. Imperial Highway, Downey.

Let's Play — Let's Learn, a workshop for child care through second grade teachers, cosponsored by the County Office of Education. Presenters include Dr. Raquel Montenegro, Cal State L.A. professor emeritus, and Elizabeth Reeves-Fortney, MA. The \$20 fee includes lunch.

For more information and reservations, call Kathy Malaske-Samu, 213-974-2440.

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## HILL: NEW AFFIRMATIVE ACTION HEAD

*(Continued from page 1)*

University of Phoenix.

He spent 20 years in private industry, ending up as an affirmative action manager for Rolm Systems in Santa Clara. In 1990, he took over as director of the Equal Opportunity Division for Santa Clara County.

On February 28, the Board of Supervisors unanimously picked him for L.A. County's top Affirmative Action post.

"I'm here to ensure everyone who works or wants to work for the County has equal access to jobs and promotions," he said. "Decisions are

not based on race and sex."

Hill prides himself on a down-in-the-trenches work ethic.

"This office is here for the employees," he said. "There is no issue too large or too small that someone in this office can't handle. We will be a working partnership with employees and management to ensure that no one is treated unfairly."

In the weeks ahead, Hill said he will focus on getting to know department heads and helping workers understand the function of his office.

Raised in Fresno, Hill is married to Mattie Hill. They have four daughters and one granddaughter.

## BAD BLOOD: HELPING FOLKS KNOCKOUT FATAL DISEASES

Reaching out to thousands of Americans suffering from fatal blood diseases, more than 25 County employees participated in a bone marrow drive February 18 at Inglewood Municipal Court.

Volunteers from the Court, Sheriff, District Attorney and Public Defender's Office joined the National Marrow Donor Program Registry during the drive.

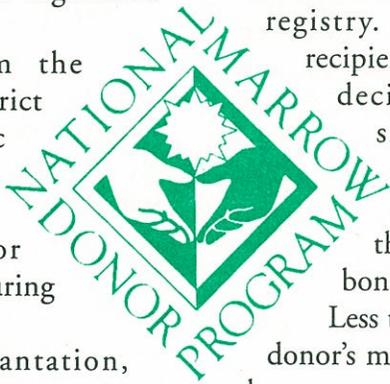
Marrow transplantation, from unrelated donors, is a new medical therapy for patients with blood diseases such as leukemia and aplastic anemia. While the national program has more than 500,000 volunteer donors, it

matches only 30 percent of the patients who request searches.

During the drive, workers received a simple blood test to determine the tissue type, which was then entered into the national registry. If matched to a recipient, the volunteer can decide to undergo a simple surgical procedure where marrow is taken from the back of the pelvic bone.

Less than 10 percent of the donor's marrow is collected and the marrow replenishes itself within two weeks.

For more information contact the National Marrow Donor Program at 1-800-654-1247.



## DE LEON STEPS IN AS OMBUDSMAN

(Continued from page 1)

involving the Sheriff's Department are investigated in a timely manner. He also provides progress reports and results of related investigations to the complaining citizen.

De Leon will also assign a retired judge from an approved panel to review records in complaints alleging excessive force resulting in significant injury.

De Leon retired from LAPD in 1978 and was appointed to the State Board of Prison Terms the same year. In 1980, he was named deputy director of the Youth and Corrections Agency. From 1983 to 1991, he was special assistant to Attorney General John Van de Kamp.

## APRIL HAPPENINGS: HEALTH WEEK TO JOG INTO COUNTY

From violence prevention tips to disease screening, the County celebrates its seventh annual Public Health Week April 4 - 10 with more than 100 events in 50 locations.

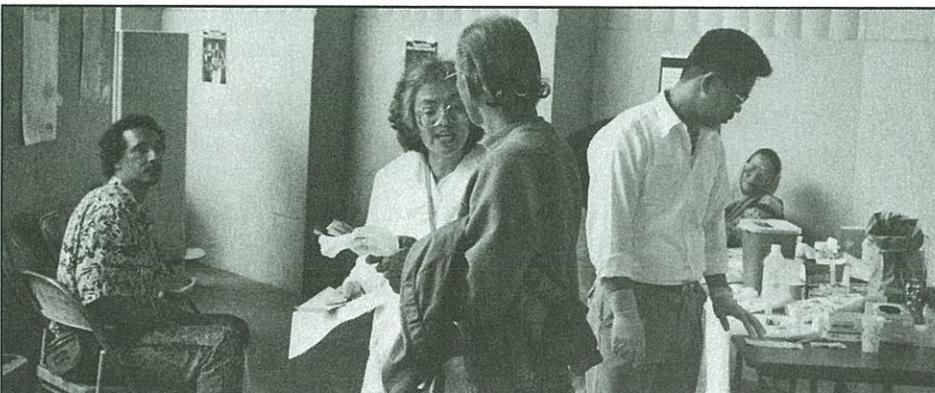
This year's celebration, called *Healthy Environment, Healthy Body, Healthy Mind: Public Health*

*Now*, demonstrates that long-term environmental, physical and mental health can improve with today's preventative maintenance.

Activities include youth forums, environmental displays in malls, health fairs, video presentations, trivia games, open houses and mobile immunization clinics.

The event, organized by the County's Public Health Programs and Services, kicks off April 4 with nationally-known speakers at an awards breakfast at the Holiday Inn Crowne Plaza in Downtown Los Angeles.

For more information, call 1-800-427-8700.



◀ Carolyn Dong, a Health Services clinic nurse, center, discusses health protection tips with a MacArthur Park participant during a previous Public Health Week outreach effort.

# "SERVICE EXCELLENCE" IN LOS ANGELES COUNTY

**W**ant to learn about how quality improvement and customer service apply in the public sector? Facing shrinking budgets and demands for improved services, many public agencies have started using these concepts and tools to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of their services.

In November, the Board of Supervisors urged departments to press forward with these concepts in the County. They created a Service Excellence Los Angeles County (SELAC) Task Force of County employees and Quality and Productivity Commissioners to act as a countywide network and resource to help put these ideas into action.

If you want to learn more, you can get a free booklet, *Service*

*Excellence Los Angeles County: An Introduction.* It summarizes some of the basic quality improvement and customer service concepts and gives examples of their application in County departments. You can also register for the SELAC mailing list to become part of the Service Excellence network and to get information about future events.

To receive the Service Excellence booklet or to register for the mailing list, fill out and return the following registration to SELAC, c/o the Quality and Productivity Office, 565 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration, 90012. For further information, call Virginia Bortin, Quality and Productivity Office, at (213) 893-0322.



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Job Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Department: \_\_\_\_\_

County Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

County Telephone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

I am interested in: \_\_\_\_\_ the Service Excellence booklet:  
\_\_\_\_\_ future information and activities.

## AIDS: WORKSHOP GIVES THE FACTS

*Learn the Facts About AIDS*, a one-day workshop geared toward nonmedical employees and sponsored by the County's AIDS Programs, continues through June.

The 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. free events take place April 19, 21, 26 and 28 in Inglewood Public Library's Lecture Hall and May 10, 11, 17 and 20 at the STD/HIV Training Center in South Gate.

On June 7 and 9, the workshop takes place at the Edward Roybal Comprehensive Health Center in Los Angeles while Rancho Los Amigos Medical Center plays host on June 21 and 22.

To pre-register and get more information, call Irene Abeyta, 213-351-8040.

### County DIGEST

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The Digest is published to provide news and information of interest to the employees of the County of Los Angeles

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