

CONSUMER AFFAIRS PROBLEMS AND ANSWERS

QUESTION: My car motor stalled yesterday and I had it towed in to a garage. I instructed the garageman that I wanted an estimate before starting any work. He called me a couple of hours later and gave an estimate. When I arrived to pick up the car, the charges were almost double the estimate. They claimed further complications were discovered. I don't feel that I should pay more than the original estimate. What can I do to retrieve my car?

ANSWER: According to Nevada Revised Statutes concerning automotive repairs, a cost estimate is to be furnished by the garageman upon request. When an estimate has been furnished to the consumer, but additional charges exceeding 20 percent, or \$40, whichever is less, is required, the garageman must notify the consumer of the amount of those charges. In this case you did not request or obtain a written estimate before the work was done. It looks like you are stuck with this one. You may try to get adjustments through Small Claims Court, but don't bet on coming out a real winner.

CONSUMER AFFAIRS PROBLEMS is a weekly feature of the LAS VEGAS SENTINEL and is prepared through the cooperation of the Consumer Affairs Division, Nevada Department of Commerce. If you have a consumer problem, let us know. We will try to get an answer. Address your card or letter to CONSUMER AFFAIRS PROBLEMS, Las Vegas Sentinel, 2450 Industrial Road. Give complete details of the problem. Your letter must be signed before we research the problem for answers. We will print your name in the SENTINEL unless you request that it be withheld. Include your full mailing address and phone number-this will not be published. All letters become the property of the Las Vegas Sentinel.

The Nevada Consumer Affairs Division is mandated to enforce statewide the laws covered under the Deceptive Trade Practices Act, the Automotive Repair Act and the Door To Door Sales Act. The agency is designed to protect and serve the needs of consumers and business persons alike through its offices in Las Vegas and Carson City.

Enquiries can be registered weekdays between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. by mail and in person at 2501 E. Sahara Avenue, Suite 304, Las Vegas, Nevada 89158 or by phone Area Code 702-386-5293.

OPERATION BRIDGE QUOTES

FAVORITISM

Do things external which happen to you distract you? Give yourself time to learn something new and good, and cease to be whirled around. But then you must also avoid going astray the other way. For those too are triflers who have worn themselves out by

activity, and yet have no goal to which they direct their movements or their thoughts.

Marcus Aurelius:
MEDITATIONS

Operation Bridge provides information, referral, prevention, treatment and rehabilitation counseling services to youth, young adults, couples and families on an out-patient, substance-free basis.

Tavern Employee Killed After Bar Argument

A West Las Vegas tavern employee was shot and killed last Thursday night following an argument with a customer, a long-time friend, Metropolitan Police reported.

Charlie Brown, who worked at Friendly Bar, 1602 N. "H" St., was pronounced dead at Valley Hospital about an hour after the 8:15 p.m. incident, police said.

The suspect, Louis Wickham, address unavailable at Sentinel press time, was arrested in the tavern parking lot. Wickham was pointed out to the police by a woman at the shooting scene.

Sgt. Clark Coleman said finally someone got up enough nerve to approach them to point out the suspect.

"A woman said, 'that guy over there did it,'" Coleman said. "I asked her why she knew and she would not say."

"Apparently these guys were good friends," Coleman said. "The suspect was a regular customer at the bar."

WAITING CHILDREN

Just give Arvel several large boxes and he will be entertained for hours. This seven-year-old black boy is very affectionate and he loves other children. Arvel especially enjoys playing out-of-doors and he also likes to look at books.

Arvel has cerebral palsy which effects the left side of his body. He has limited use of his left leg and arm which requires him to walk with the aid of a walker. He attends a special school for the handicapped and receives physical therapy at school. He also has mild seizures which are controlled with medication.

Academically Arvel functions as a severely mentally retarded child. His speech has been limited to a few words, but he is improving his verbal skills constantly and he understands all that is said to him. He is able to dress himself, feed himself and comb his hair with only a little help.

Arvel is an early riser

and his general health is good. He loves spaghetti, juices, fruits and especially bananas. Arvel needs an adoptive family which already has other children. Children



ARVEL

are a good influence on him because they motivate him to higher achievements. Arvel also needs parents who can provide a secure and loving home while, at the same time, they accept his limitations. A two-parent black family or a single black parent are preferred for Arvel. He has been waiting for a "forever" family for much of his life. Can you find room in your heart and family for this charming little boy?

HOW YOU CAN ADOPT

The children described in this column are waiting for adoption. Nationwide, there are over 300,000 children who, for various reasons, have not found permanent parents. Some have physical, mental or emotional handicaps; some are of mixed racial background; some are older; others are siblings.

The Las Vegas SENTINEL, working with AASK (Aid To Adoption Of Special Kids) hopes to find homes for these children. AASK is looking for people who can give love and nurturing to hard to place children. Prospective parents may be single or married.

If you'd like more information on how to adopt a special child or on how you can help financially support the AASK program, please call 876-7420 or write AASK Adoption Agency, 3305 W. Spring Mountain Road, Suite 92, Las Vegas, 89102.

Adoption is a specific legal matter, and the Las Vegas SENTINEL can answer no question concerning the children.

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