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LETHAL WEAPON 4	(R)	1:30 4:05 7:05 9:55
ARMAGEDDON	(PG13)	1:00 4:00 7:00 10:00
DR. DOLITTLE	(PG13)	1:10 3:10 5:10 7:15 9:35
SMALL SOLDIERS	(PG13)	1:40 4:20 7:10 9:40
THREE SOMETHING ABOUT MARY	(R)	1:35 4:15 7:20 9:45
THE MASK OF ZORRO	(PG13)	1:05 4:05 7:05 9:50

\$3.00 - all shows before 6 p.m.  
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**Thursday, July 23rd**  
 2 shows: 9:00 & 11:00 p.m.

**Plant inspection**  
 Heriberto Torres, a graduate student in plant pathology, inspects sorghum plants inoculated with Tuesday afternoon at the greenhouse.

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**Clinton seeks improvement in nation's nursing homes, criminal background checks**

WASHINGTON (AP) — On Tuesday, President Clinton announced a series of steps to crack down on nursing homes that fail to give high-quality care to their patients. Clinton said he would ask Congress to pass legislation that would require nursing homes to conduct a criminal background check on workers and would set up a national registry of nursing home employees convicted of abusing residents.



CLINTON

The legislation also would allow more employees to receive training in preventing malnutrition and dehydration and reauthorize the nursing home ombudsman program under the Administration on Aging. The ombudsman provides consumers with information such as records of abuse and neglect at poorly-run nursing homes. The Clinton administration said it would reject Congress' suggestion that state inspectors can be replaced by inspectors from private, accredited agencies. After experimenting with that idea, administration officials have found it would not work. "They miss too much," Donna Shalala, the secretary of health and human services, said. "They actually put nursing home residents in jeopardy. We are concluding, based on that experience, that we should continue with well-trained state inspectors." The Clinton administration also was taking several steps on its own, such as directing state enforcement agencies to impose immediate penalties on nursing homes that repeat serious vio-

lations. Currently, enforcers allow numerous opportunities for such nursing homes to come into compliance. The Health Care Financing Administration put new nursing home regulations in place three years ago. Since that time, quality of care has improved. The Department of Health and Human Services was submitting a 900-page report to Congress outlining its findings during that three-year period and making recommendations on how nursing home care can be further improved. HCFA announced a number of actions it would take to bolster state inspections, including requiring that they be done annually in a less predictable manner. "They inspect every year, but they tend not to vary the time and the date," Shalala said. "We've said ... 'you've got to have a more random system so that people are surprised.'" Other steps taken by the administration include: —Targeting nursing home chains with a poor record of meeting state standards, so that they will be inspected more frequently. —Referring the most serious violations to the Justice Department for criminal or civil prosecution. —Cutting off inspection funds to states that continually have a poor record of citing nursing homes for sub-standard care. —Increasing federal oversight of state inspections, and provide extra training and assistance to state officials. —Publishing the results of annual nursing home surveys on the Internet. —Collecting information on patient care in a national automated data system, so that federal and state officials can identify problem facilities earlier.

**Strike dispute**

GM, United Auto Workers ordered into arbitration  
 FLINT, Mich. (AP) — A judge on Tuesday formally ordered the United Auto Workers and General Motors Corp. into arbitration over the automaker's claim that the lengthy strikes are illegal. District Judge Paul V. Gadola warned that any attempts to delay or prolong the arbitration may be met with a contempt-of-court citation and fines. He said his jurisdiction also tends to enforcing any decision award of the arbitrator. UAW lawyer Michael Nicholson argued that the order was unnecessary and beyond the court's jurisdiction. After Gadola last week admonished the two sides to settle with independent arbitration, Thomas Roberts, the automaker's biggest union set the first hearing for today. As a result, Gadola's order came as a surprise. Lawyers for both sides thought they could brief the judge by telephone, but he told them to appear in court. If GM were to win its case, it would ask for a back-to-work order from the court and seek financial damages that could cripple the union. Most legal experts say the automaker will win, but GM lawyer Frank Jaworski was upbeat. "We're very pleased today," the court has basically granted what we asked for last week," Jaworski said. Nicholson declined to comment on the hearing. At issue is GM's contention that strikes involve disputes of a national scope over which the union may not strike under the UAW-GM national contract. The union says the strikes are primarily over local issues, such as alleged plant health and safety violations and production rules. Negotiations at the two plants in Mich., plants where 9,200 workers walked off their jobs June 5 and resumed Tuesday, but no progress was expected as both sides prepared for today's hearing. GM so far has lost more than \$1 billion worth of production because of the strikes, which have led to the shutdown of 25 assembly plants and partial or full shutdowns of more than 100 parts plants across North America.