

LETTERS TO EDITOR A FABLE: The Day the College Came to Torrance

Billions for Peace? Editor: With all the uproar over a possible postal service cut-back, I haven't noticed that anyone other than the well known economist Seymour Melman, has put forth any sensible alternative.

Mr. Melman recently suggested that 22 billion dollars be slashed from our huge defense budget and that this money be spent to strengthen our economy in many ways.

This makes a lot of sense to me, especially since we already have enough weapons to wipe out our whole world ten times over. (Just how many times can a human being die?)

Imagine what we could do for our sagging economy and our terrible unemployment, for our schools, for medical care for all of our citizens, and for all of our social services. Twenty-two billion of our taxdollars could go a long way toward both a strengthening and enhancing our very way of life that our defense system is supposed to preserve.

If we spend it all on defense and let what we are trying to defend go to pot it seems that our values are quite topsy-turvy to put it mildly!

Gail Eaby 11801 Christopher Ave. Inglewood 4, California

More Opinions on College for Torrance

I wholeheartedly am in favor of the proposed four-year college locating in Torrance. Even consideration of the Fox Hills site is absolutely ridiculous. The Palos Verdes site is also far superior to Fox Hills, but I feel it ranks behind Torrance. With you all the way.

David C. Mortz, Jr. 4704 Mindora Drive

I have lived in the South Bay area the past 15 years, 10 of which I have driven to work over the various routes to Douglas at Palms, then Douglas at Santa Monica, later to Hughes. I believe the traffic would completely bar the South Bay from the college (at Fox Hills).

The Torrance location would better serve the area for which it was originally planned.

I have five acres at 26 Palms. I would be glad to donate four acres to California for a high-rise university, if I could reserve one for high-rise apartments to be used by students who do not drive.

I'm sure the 29 Palms area can be reached more safely and readily by students from our area of South Bay than can the Fox Hills location.

I've driven both routes many many times the past several years. Janet Y. Lyon 5421 Linda Drive

We want the college here in Torrance. This is the area that has the largest increase in population.

Mr. and Mrs. Alvin Koch 22802 Ladeene Ave.

Thank you for putting your college editorials on the front page. They belong there.

Sondra Bader 417 Via los Miradores

Why should the Fox Hills area have two colleges and none in the Torrance area? That area (Fox Hills) is not as accessible by car, either.

The majority of students are in the southwest area—and the majority of adults and elderly people who would not attend live in the Fox Hills area.

Also, they probably would not be happy with so many young people around—the noise, sports, etc.—R. H. Guess, 21229 Palos Verdes Blvd.

The Governor's political concern over one man's death in the ring seems to completely outweigh his compassion toward the thousands of men and women who will be students at the proposed college to be built, as I understand, both on an earthquake fault and in the middle of an airport landing pattern.

Are we the people to be at the mercy of a political PAYOFF which will endanger the lives of our children?

Ronald Gilbert 847 Pepper El Segundo

I have read, with interest, the 'tug-of-war' going on with regard to the new state college. With due respect to all the parties involved, I can not see how placing the state college at the Fox Hills location makes good sense from either a present or long-range viewpoint.

First, the land area is limited and the cost, if it follows the California trend, to acquire additional land for campus expansion would be extremely high.

Our political office holders talk economy with one voice for publicity and then sock 'John Q. Public' with a future bill, or tax increase if you will, for a deal like this.

Secondly, we are building 'freeways,' but even with the 'freeways' the entire, southwest section will have to fight surface traffic to Fox Hills.

Also a 'high-rise' college—is this what the students want in relation to colleges like Long Beach State?

I would, as a taxpayer, with children who will be using our college facilities, like to see a college in the South Bay area in the city of Torrance.

The land is available, the price per acre, from news reports, is less.

The area would be easy to reach via surface streets and on freeways free from the heavy traffic to and from the airport, and the land for expansion could be purchased now.

We know that the college will expand as the World War II children are now getting to the college age. Plus, we will soon have the Korean War children coming along, and then the children of the World War II children will follow in not so many years.

It would appear that we should be using a little common logic in our college site selection, a thought about the people who will be using the college, a thought about the future, a thought about common sense, and a long-term view of this expenditure of state funds.

M. A. Dupree Jr. 16204 Spinning Ave. Mrs. Helen Swanson

A FABLE: The Day the College Came to Torrance

The day that the college came to Torrance was a day that would not be forgotten by the citizens for a long time to come.

The governor came to the city to bask in the applause of the people.

A United States Senator came to speak and to wish the people well.

A delegation came from the California Senate, led by the Lieutenant-Governor, and the Speaker led a delegation from the Assembly, too.

Indeed, it was a great day for Torrance, but it really was much more than that—it was a victory for the people everywhere.

The fact that the college came to Torrance was an example of what can happen when the common sense of the people prevails over the selfish pressure which often besets their leaders.

The story really began back in 1962 when the astounding growth that created the metropolis of Torrance we know today first began to manifest itself.

The area of that time was unique. Out of the entire population of Torrance—only 114,500 at that time—some 40 percent was under the age of 19.

The California Legislature, recognizing that so many young people ought to be provided with the best opportunity to gain an education, appropriated \$5 million to buy a site for a new college.

It was just good common sense to put that college in

Torrance.

First, Torrance is centrally located geographically in the area to be served by the college.

Second, Torrance is right smack dab in the middle of the people the college is intended to serve.

It's so simple, you know, when you look back at all the fuss and bother that this college created.

Just a look at a map, or a study of the growth trends in the Torrance area in those days, should have made those facts plain to anyone who took the trouble to look.

And just think of all the children who would have been educated here if the college had been put here in Torrance back in 1963 instead of now. It had to come here, it was inevitable.

That's the tragedy of human weakness, I guess.

You see, there were a lot of highly-placed people who were under selfish pressures to locate our college elsewhere.

There was a lot of pressure exerted to put our college on a very small, 100-acre site in the middle of a golf course.

It seems to be one of the tragedies of human weakness that a man, when he is wrong, will say or do almost anything to make himself look right.

So these men who were wrong, who wanted to locate our college on a golf course, spoke glowingly about the "excitement" of a high-rise college on the tiny

2510 Ridgeland Road Torrance, California Dear Mrs. Swanson: Governor Brown has asked me to reply to your recent communication regarding the location of the South Bay State College.

He asked me to thank you for your interest and concern in this matter.

By law, the responsibility for specific site location of our state colleges has been vested in the Board of Trustees of the State College System.

The Trustees, in turn, often rely upon the studied recommendation of a site selection committee.

Governor Brown feels strongly that his office should not interfere in their decision. He is forwarding your communication to the Board of Trustees so they may have the benefit of

190 acres.

Very few questioned where cars could be parked, or how a high-rise college could grow when it was hemmed in by the high-rise buildings that inevitably would surround the college.

No one seemed to realize that there is a limit on how high a high-rise can rise.

What's more, the golf course was clear up at the northern end of the area to be served by the college.

It was absurd, of course, but it got worse instead of better. The men who wanted to put the college where it shouldn't be went through all sorts of gyrations to prove that they were right instead of wrong.

First, they moved the boundary north to the Santa Monica Mountains.

Second, they said there was a shortage of money while they were pouring millions into Los Angeles State College to pay for its growth after 16 years of being hemmed in on a very small, 100-acre site.

Third, they said such crazy things as "it wouldn't matter if the new college was across the streets from UCLA," or "students from all over the state can attend the college, it doesn't matter where it is."

It got to the point where it became a scandal and the old leaders were swept out of office. The new leaders put the college here where it should have been all the time.

It seems, looking back with the vision of hindsight, that the leaders had got away from the people.

They didn't seem to understand what was taking place here in Torrance.

Those leaders thought of Torrance as a small town of only a few thousand people. The leaders failed to recognize that Torrance was emerging into the second largest city in the county.

The people knew that the leaders were wrong. They wrote letters. They became indignant. Some people got downright mad.

It is amazing what an aroused people who won't give up can do.

What happened later shows that leaders can move a boundary to the mountains, but—if they want to—the people can move the mountains.

That's the moral of the story of how the college finally came to Torrance.

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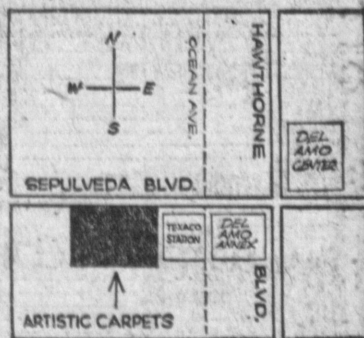
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