

Guest Editorial

Letters

In the wake of the I Love A Clean Ocean Beach Campaign, it behoves all of us to evaluate what we, as individuals, can contribute toward a clean community, rather than bemoaning the cut-backs of government maintenance services.

As different factions in the community prioritize their grievance, be it litter, vagrants, dog-droppings, over-turned trashcans, or alleys collections of sundry discards, as a whole, we the community can truly impact and even do away with these eyesores. It is refreshing to see the elementary students artwork depicting a clean O.B. Some of their solutions were too easy, when carried out.

With an increase of summer population, i.e. increase of trash, a habit needs to be taken up by us, the natives, to fight that urge to dump a full ashtray in somebody's driveway toss just that one bottle in the gutter. Thanks to the economy, ironically, the aluminum cans are the lesser offenders. Yes, we have too few trashcans, yes, the litter ordinance is not being enforced, but is it not up to us to bend down and remove the offensive object, hail at the offender, nicely, pick up that broom and do it ourselves? The example could be contagious.

The idea of an annual reminder to do a special project to beautify our city, seems almost silly were it not of such importance to educate the public, or remind the public of that responsibility.

Ocean Beach, in the tradition of being a tad different could lead the way in not restricting it's effort to eight days in the year but to make it a way of life.

Let's do away with the dinosaur of attitudes, that I care but nobody else does, or I am doing my share and I don't see the others do the same, that is not going to get us far except give us the guarantee of a place, right down there with other communities, waiting year after year for somebody else to solve the problem.

Yes, I do too Love A Clean Ocean Beach.

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Dear Editor:

Jackie Sanders can apparently get himself worked up into a frenzy over some of the most trivial things. While most of us are concerned about the proliferation of nuclear weapons, threats of war, taxes, uncertain employment conditions, crime, jobs and our SDG&E bills... Sanders is concerned with O.B. suddenly having a 40-foot height limit (has he ever lived in an actual city where most buildings exceed 100 feet in height?), density levels (he could always move to Montana), and "community review" which really doesn't mean anything anyway since city government can choose to ignore it.

Yessirree, we sure have problems in O.B. with atrocious lack of landscaping... been to North Park lately? And then there is his alluding to telling property owners what they can build, and can't. If the developers were less constrained over the last few years we may have had a situation whereby housing would be abundant. That's what happened in Miami, Houston and dozens of other areas. Builders provided more and more housing... a glut resulted... rents were reduced (the law of supply and demand) and housing costs became cheap. You can rent a beautiful place for \$150 and buy a nice house for \$35,000. But, I suppose, Sanders is more concerned with "input" and such. A little less input may result in less money on housing. Wouldn't we all prefer that to stricter "sign regulations?"

Steven Ladlow
Point Loma Avenue, Ocean Beach

Dear Editor:

Adjacent to the gas station on the corner is a huge stucco house, then a frame house converted to a waterbed store, then a 14-story office building and lastly a 3-story row of townhouses.

This is not San Diego. It is Houston, Texas... where zoning does not exist. Where a property owner can do with his/her land as they darn well please. Where height limits and other arbitrary restraints on construction are absent. Where never is heard a discouraging word from no planning board or commission or department of zoning. Where liberty reigns supreme, and one is in constant fear about what one's neighbor is going to drill for, construct, pave or cut down.

Unfettered freedom has its price, and in Houston that price has included ghastly air pollution often cured only by the "northers," strong winds from the north, or a heavy rainfall. But the worst result is clearly the incredible traffic which has frequently resulted in gridlock, a phenomenon in which traffic movement reaches the ultimate logjam... nothing moves.

However, the massive amounts of construction without planning or zoning has not been the disaster feared. Ample deed restrictions, covenants that are reciprocal, and peer pressure have all combined to keep the "outrageous" in abeyance while allowing most reasonable projects. Moreover, the convenience of sporadic commercial use in predominantly residential neighborhoods reduces reliance on vehicular use and most feel that

this outweighs any lost aesthetics of a planned community.

Undoubtedly the lack of long-range planning has allowed Houston to grow from the Texas town it once was, to the fourth largest American city. With no viable mass transit system - things snapped. By nature, Texans love their cars and horses, so commuters hit their happy trails. Traffic jams became legendary. You can take the bus, but this is no guarantee of a timely arrival at your destination. They often break down en route and are abandoned for lack of spare parts.

Cheryl Erhardt-Thompson

The author is a cousin of former Ocean Beach Planning Board Chairperson Ken Erhardt, and is a computer scientist in Houston.

The Day and Night
Car Wash



Corner Voltaire at Bacon

- Wash & Rinse
- Spray Wax
- Foamy Brush
- Steam
- Vacuum
- Coin & Bill Changer

May Community Calendar

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
	9 - 12 Friendly Club	7:15 a.m. O.B. Kiwanis	7 p.m. O.B.P.B.		7 p.m. Poetry Reading at O.B. Womens Club	S.D. Council of Youth Hostel 15 mile walk
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Mother's Day	9 - 12 Friendly Club	7:15 O.B. Kiwanis	O.B.P.B. 7:00 Rec. Center			Community Health Fair 9-4 Pt. Loma High
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
Beacon Deadline	9 - 12 Friendly Club	7:15 O.B. Kiwanis 9:30 E.F. Bank Bd. Mtg. 7 p.m. O.B.T.C.	7 p.m. O.B.P.B.	3 p.m. Saratoga Bd.	A.A.R.P. 1:30 p.m.	O.B.T.C. Rummage Sale 10-3
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
	9 - 12 Friendly Club Theatre Auditions 5:30 p.m.	7:15 O.B. Kiwanis	8 a.m. O.B. Merchants	O.B. Forum 7 p.m. Rec. Center		
30						
	Memorial Day					