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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Responding to Michael Schulman's letter to the editor last week, there are some unscrupulous businesses, some provide poor service, and over time, people just don't shop there. Nature and the universe solve that problem. When these businesses break the law, it is a long, fought-for system that has been developed to protect the public.

There are ample laws and officials to protect the public on both sides in Beverly Hills—landlords and renters. We are business owners, and don't run our properties on "bugaboos". It is unfortunate that you are wasting our time and money, not the tenants, on defending our rights to fair business practices in our City where we have operated for generations without cumbersome bureaucracies like the cities you mentioned.

It is the proverbial injury beyond insult, and as you noted, amoral, and quite unlawful for you to grant lawful businesses your measure of our "ample financial gains." Let me wish you good luck in taking that spirit to our other City businesses, from which you would be politely thrown out on your ear. You are obviously unfamiliar with "primary beef" in our town, as it is of the highest quality and at a justifiably higher price.

We are not L.A., West Hollywood or Santa Monica, and I am sorry you don't know the difference, or how rent control has affected the apartment buildings in those cities.

As to your "they're all the same" attitude towards apartment complexes through duplexes, they are all businesses. But then so are Wal-Mart, LA Fitness, 7-11 and many other businesses—none of which will ever be welcome in Beverly Hills. Your most insulting, yet telling statement: "It may be your property, but it is our home..." For the vast majority of Beverly Hills owners, they are our homes. That is the major difference between the smaller (2 to 4) unit owners and the investor complexes. It is these smaller unit properties; family owned and operated businesses, which have been the mainstay of this City for the last 100 years.

Your pseudo-tenant revolt and the unlawful 3-percent emergency action by the City, that sir, is tyranny. Your selfish and misguided actions are destroying a City and a way of life that you don't know, understand, nor had no part in building, in which you have no assets nor equity.

I hope that Mr. Schulman will feel free to avail himself of any of those "rent stabilized cities" to which he refers. He is obviously clueless to real estate law, and what it takes to own and manage a rental property to general business practices. With our best wishes, please take your "free-market choices" elsewhere.

Nathan Hirsch

In the last paragraph of his letter to the editor regarding rent control last week, Michael Schulman referred to an article for which I was interviewed and then misquoted in another newspaper as allegedly saying that we need laws that "don't have any moral component to them." This was corrected the following week but it appears Mr. Schulman missed that. Advocating laws without a moral component would be absurd since our entire legal system is based on our moral code.

My only reference to "moral component" was in mentioning City Council meetings where some complainants asserted that 10 percent increases were "immoral." I wondered how the council arrived at the conclusion that 3 percent is "moral." Does that mean that 4 percent, 5 percent or 7 percent are all "immoral?" At what percentage exactly does morality kick in? There is no moral component to any figure. Therefore, since our legal system is indeed a reflection of our moral code, why should any government body make something illegal that is not immoral? What is foolhardy is a man made law attempting to override the natural law of economics to the benefit of some members of the community at the expense of others.

Mr. Schulman holds up Los Angeles, Santa Monica and West Hollywood as models of successful rent control. But Santa Monica's apartment stock has drastically declined from 38,000 units when rent control was enacted in 1979 to 25,000 units today. Poor people have been pushed out of the city and the black market in under-the-table payments to get an apartment is rampant. West Hollywood's multifamily stock is declining rapidly and the housing shortage in Los Angeles has been called a "crisis" by the city's mayor.

Boston has discontinued rent control after 30 years and has seen a surge in multifamily construction ever since. Economists are predicting that New York, which has the oldest rent control of any city in the nation—adopted as a wartime measure in 1943—are predicting it will soon be dropped.

Only four states have cities with rent control while 35 pre-empt or prohibit it altogether. I rarely tout the virtues of the federal government's big programs but when it comes to helping those with rent assistance, it has got it right with section 8. No American wants to see people homeless for lack of funds, especially the working poor who deserve income supplements if they can't afford basic housing.

It is a far cry between basic housing and an apartment in Beverly Hills so I'm afraid Section 8 won't be underwriting many tenants in the City. Our 34,680 citizens determine that there are tenants deserving of help paying their rent, then one—let's all chip in with our tax dollars. I suspect, however, that the five members of the City Council will not be so bold as to enact such a law for fear of being hung—not in effigy but from a tree in Roxbury Park.

Rent control is always the easy answer but not the right one. It never is and never was.

Kevin R. Davis

Responding to BHUSD Board of Education president Mel Spitz's letter last week, since when does a citizen expressing his or her opinion on an opinion page of a newspaper represent a "dis-service to the community?"

And when is it okay for a government official to publicly use the "bully pulpit" to call out citizens for expressing their point of view? You claim my statement (which one?) is false, yet offer reasons and justification for doing what you claim is false? Unfunded liabilities are debts. Our school system (we, the City and citizens) owes millions of dollars and regardless of what you may call it, it is a debt. And to say owing millions of dollars is common is beyond the pale.

Help me understand why firing teachers and hiring expensive administrative personnel is not firing teachers and hiring expensive administrative personnel. Again, sir, you may offer reasons and justifications for these actions, but that certainly does not make my statement false. I sincerely hope you will cease engaging in verbal duels with citizens and use all of your talents and kills to elevate our schools from being just one of the best to being the best. My good thoughts are with you and the BHUSD Board of Education.

Robert Block

POLICE BLOTTER

The following assaults, burglaries, and grand thefts have been reported by BHPD. Losses (when known) are in brackets.

- ASSAULTS**
 08/28 200 S. Robertson Bl.
 09/02 200 N. Canon Dr.
 09/03 300 N. Palm Dr.
- BURGLARIES**
 07/21 9600 Wilshire Bl.
 08/28 200 S. Robertson Bl. (\$2,500)
 08/28 8300 Wilshire Bl. (\$3,900)
 08/28 300 N. Rodeo Dr. (\$450)
 08/28 9100 Wilshire Bl. (\$1,425)
 08/29 9400 Brighton Way (\$30)
 08/29 500 N. Palm Dr.
 08/29 200 S. Hamilton Dr. (\$600)
 08/29 200 N. Rodeo Dr. (\$36,000)
 08/29 9500 Brighton Way (\$6,700)
 08/30 700 N. Crescent Dr.
 08/31 Olympic Bl./S. Almont Dr.
 08/31 9000 Olympic Bl.
 08/31 N. La Cienega Bl.
 08/31 S.Wetherly Dr./Olympic Bl. (\$840)
 09/02 100 S. Camden Dr. (\$3,550)
 09/02 200 S. Doheny Dr. (\$4,610)
 09/02 9600 Wilshire Bl. (\$7,335)
 09/02 500 N. Crescent Dr. (\$150)
 09/03 400 N. Canon Dr.
- GRAND THEFTS**
 08/28 100 S. Maple Dr. (\$1,410)
 08/28 100 Peck Dr. (\$2,000)
 08/29 1100 Carolyn Way (11,400)
 08/29 900 Alpine Dr. (\$5,000)
 08/29 300 N. Rodeo Dr. (\$880)
 08/30 400 N. Rodeo Dr. (\$9,200)
 08/30 100 Spalding Dr. (\$3,500)



THE ANGELS ARE WEeping

OUR THOUGHTS ARE WITH
 THOSE WHO ARE SUFFERING
 WITH THE TRAGEDY OF
 "HARVEY"
 AND THOSE IN THE PATH
 OF "IRMA"

JS
 9/8/17

LET'S CARRY ON WITH HOPE & CHARITY!

Cartoon for the Courier by Janet Salter



Astrology

By Holiday Mathis

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Sept. 8). This solar return raises the tone you bring to your life events, which will serve you in the moment and beyond. Memories are not flat, linear representations, but 3D snapshots of everything, including your mood. Love and joy spill over through the end of your year. Shrewd business leads to lucrative deals in February. Leo and Sagittarius adore you.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Your analyzing mind has solved many problems for you and helped you excel in many areas of life. That said, it's not the right mind to heal emotional wounds. Employ your heart and body to that task.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Today you're like a jazz musician. You know your piece too well to play it note for note. The solid melody at the core of your day will have many embellishments and tangents to keep it fresh.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Narrow the gap between your idea of where you are now and your idea of where you want to be. "Your idea" is the operative phrase here. Perception of a place isn't the place. Geography remains; ideas change instantaneously.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). There's a person who, lately, tends to put a twist in the mood to enable a downward spiral. Perhaps this character is unavoidable, though you can plan ahead and put up emotional armor, including a shield made of good humor.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Psychologists call the fruitless preoccupation with what went wrong "rumination." This mode of critical thinking invariably makes us feel worse. Awareness is the anecdote. Instead of analyzing, accept. Instead of doing, be.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Old patterns feel comfortable, but that feeling of familiarity doesn't make them any truer. Repetition fosters belief, but that doesn't make the belief right. Figure out what's good and correct before you repeat it.

PISCES (Feb. 19-Mar. 20). Thinking is not all there is to conscious experience. Today a cosmic perk will come without any effort on your behalf. Your senses will be naturally more engaged, and your intuition will be keen.

ARIES (Mar. 21-Apr. 19). Solitude can be healing, though some people will go to great lengths to avoid it. That's because they mistake being alone for being lonely. Loneliness is not a number; rather, it's a lack of connection.

TAURUS (Apr. 20-May 20). Some will lower their inhibitions through chemicals to free themselves to be more social. The chemicals are unnecessary and could be harmful. Lower your inhibitions through a mindset or through dancing instead.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Attention isn't the goal for you today. There are many situations in which you don't want to be the smooth one, the one that everyone wants to impress or date or befriend. You've good reasons for wanting to go under the radar.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Distance is a funny thing for you now. In some ways you'll feel more influential and important to people who are far away from you than you will to those at an arm's length.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). The real message will be smuggled into a conversation via the social acceptable message, the small talk, the expected banter. Listen for it. You don't necessarily have to address it now, but definitely make note of this underlying truth.

The Courier Welcomes Letters To The Editor

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