

Pardon My Grammar

By Ms. Grammer

Ah! Suddenly I understand a word people mix up as in: "... they are so faint they are hardly even *their*." The final word in that sentence, of course, ought to be *there* not *their*. But let's try to understand this and other common spelling, word-swap, and pronunciation violations.

Perhaps there is a their there which would explain why some misspell the word! That very theirness is in every thing around us

because everything else is someone else's, not mine. It's his or hers or theirs. Things have their their-ness; the essence belongs to the things—it is their essence. So I could almost see how someone might say "... they are so faint they are hardly even *their*." Their is fair.

It was Gertrude Stein who said "There's no 'there' there." She said there there. She said it about Oakland and people think that she was maligning the city, but

she was not. She grew up in Oakland (of all places) and the house where she grew up had since been torn down and it is to that fact (or non-fact) she referred when she said, "There's no 'there' there." Consequently there was no their there either. There there, now, we understand them both.

Library is frequently mispronounced or misspelled as library. But that, too, is understandable. A library is a place where lies are supposed to be buried by the truth in the volumes that the library holds and protects. So a library buries lies and can be called a library. That right there saves us a lot of administrative overhead, correcting that one.

The most famous mispronounced word is nuclear which is sometimes pronounced new cue-ler. A nuclear blast would certainly be a **new cue** from **ler**, so maybe that mispronunciation is understandable as well. Let's hope we never get that new cue from ler, however, because I'm not sure that humans would know what to do if they suddenly knew they were in end-game. The point of life is to keep living; evolution.

Oriented is frequently given an entirely missing syllable. Do you see the "t-aye" in orient-ed? I see no "t-aye." Perhaps they are only meaning to say, "To get oriented to one another, let's sit down and have a spot of tea ('t-aye')." Detritus has three pronunciations, two of them wrong. It's di-TRY-tus. It's a very popular word, but I have heard both DET-tra-tis and de-TREE-tus. Now why would anyone pronounce di-TRY-tus like that? First of all,

what does it (really) mean?

1. Loose material (stone fragments and silt, etc.) that is worn away from rocks.
2. Hence: Any fragments separated from the body to which they belonged; any product of disintegration; debris.

Detritus is stuff that tried to be useful but just couldn't make it. Debris: stuff that TRIED. Not trees or treaties. Not debt. Not detonate. Di-TRY-tus: Stuff that tried but just ended up debris. Are you a fragment, separated from the body to which you belonged? I hear from a lot of Democrats who seem to feel that way.

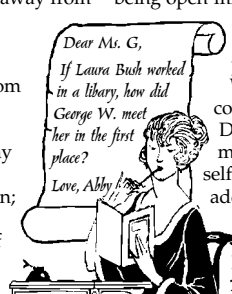
Ask is a word now mispronounced so proudly that we could welcome it as a new born: axed. Often times questions do split a person in two, so axe might not be so inappropriate after all, you know? I axed you a question.

Liberal is a word that is often mispronounced. It is pronounced as a venomous hiss rather than as a word with two nice ls and some vowels and a b and an r in it. Just a nice word, like any other. What did the word mean once before it came to mean ninny cry baby weasel? Liberal—

1. Not limited to or by established, traditional, orthodox, or authoritarian attitudes, views, or dogmas; free from bigotry.
2. Favoring proposals for reform, open to new ideas for progress, and tolerant of the ideas

and behavior of others; broad-minded.

What is so awful about being open-minded? Liberal: not limited. That seems pretty good. What about conservative? Does it really mean vapid and selfish and addicted to the opiate of the masses? No. It means:



1. Favoring traditional views and values; tending to oppose change.
2. Traditional or restrained in style: a conservative dark suit.
3. Moderate; cautious: a conservative estimate. (well, we can axe Webster about this one.—Ms. G.)
4. Tending to conserve; preservative: the conservative use of natural resources. (ahem, well...)

But that's not so bad, either. We have to maintain (conserve) and we also have to change (liberate). Both conservatism and liberalism are fine.

Could we have the words back, please? Could we whisk the detritus from all the words that were used last month and begin using words to talk again and not as words words words words swords swords swords swords?

Once upon a time, I think it was back in the 50s before all the yelling, it seems like adults talked and were expected to be somewhat educated and oriented to being ... well, "cultured."

Is that like yoghurt, I axe you?

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(A tax-exempt 501(c)(3) organization)
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Beachwood Canyon Neighborhood Association

Annual Meeting and Election
 Thursday, January 13 at 7PM
 Village Coffee Shop

Check website for new slate of officers. Nominate a neighbor for election to the board by calling 323-462-1514 or writing CanyonVox@aol.com.

Refreshments will be served - this will be a fun meeting!

THE BEACHWOOD CANYON NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

MAILING ADDRESS: 2751 WESTSHIRE DR, HOLLYWOOD, CA 90068, 323-462-1514

PLEASE JOIN OR RENEW NOW!

Date _____ NEW RENEWAL

Name _____ e-mail: _____ Tel (H) _____

Address _____ Tel (W) _____

Issues of interest to me are:

<input type="checkbox"/> Traffic	<input type="checkbox"/> Historic Preservation	<input type="checkbox"/> Franklin-Hollywood Hills Council	<input type="checkbox"/> Beautification
<input type="checkbox"/> Telephone Tree	<input type="checkbox"/> Emergency Response	<input type="checkbox"/> Neighborhood Watch	<input type="checkbox"/> Membership

Other _____

Dues are \$20. per household per year and \$10 for an apartment rental. AMOUNT ENCLOSED: \$ \$

The three stages of man: He believes in Santa Claus. He doesn't believe in Santa Claus. He is Santa Claus.



Franklin Hollywood Hills COMMUNITY COUNCIL

FHHCC Adopts a Highway

When vagrants and homeless take shelter in the areas next to a freeway, it's usually the task of CalTrans to ask them to clear out. When trash builds up on our freeways, it's usually a crew of orange-vested folks working off court ordered

Hollywood Blvd to Cahuenga. Their goal is to clean out the encampments and all the trash that is produced by them and secure the areas so that the homeless will not be able to enter.

George Abrahams and Fran Reichenbach, founders of FHHCC along with Kevin, a local resident in the Hollywood-Gower neighborhood spent Saturday, Nov. 6th focusing on the one encampment that has been the source of neighborhood complaints for more than a few years.

What they found was

and tarpaulins. He was told to get up, take his belongings and leave. The man left through an opening at the opposite end of the area. Craig promises to have that opening secured.

The encampment extended along the entire length of the apartment building and was full of trash, clothing, and all kinds of personal effects. It was clear that a lot of drugs had been consumed back there. Lots of paint cans were found among the food containers and other trash. At the end of the day, approximately 20 huge bags of trash were gathered as well as cushions, pillows, 25 large pieces of broken concrete and other large pieces of trash.

The wall of the apartment had been covered in graffiti, which CalTrans will remove.

There was extensive graffiti in gold paint that was applied rather recently. This was evidenced by the presence of a "Save Florentine Gardens" sticker applied to the wall and then covered by a stream of gold paint.

George makes regular spot clean-ups to remove posters, graffiti and debris. He picked up 3 shopping carts left on

the Gower northbound off-ramp just in the last month alone.

FHHCC Adopt a Highway volunteers include members of the Argyle Civic Association as well as members of Hollywood-Gower Neighborhood Association.

All CalTrans volunteers must go through a brief safety training and have been given encroachment permits in order to enter these areas. If you would like to join the effort to clean and secure these areas and make a difference in the community, call George at 323-463-9209. (See sidebar for Fran's editorial commentary regarding this particular effort).

—Theresa Foster



Before...

indebtedness picking up the trash.

In the case of the neighborhoods around the 101 Freeway, waiting for others to do this work just wasn't good enough. FHHCC is an independent advocacy group organizing and supporting neighborhoods within their boundaries (Hollywood Sign on the north, Hollywood Blvd on the south, Western on the east and Cahuenga on the west). One of these neighborhoods sits up against the 101 Freeway just west of Bronson Ave.

The residents in the three apartment buildings on Tamarind and Carlos have watched homeless people come and go from a space of land that CalTrans owns. Neighbors complained of noise, trash and a constant vagrant presence in their neighborhood. The senior apartment building across the street on Carlos will have to add grease to their fence to keep the large groups of homeless people from camping out against their building. The gray wall that is the back of Florentine Gardens was constantly getting tagged by graffiti "artists."

Franklin Hollywood Hills Community Council has adopted the stretch of Highway 101 from



... and after!

startling to say the least. It was clear that many people had called this place their home and one of them was sleeping in on the morning of the clean up. Wearing their hard hats and bright orange vests, they gathered at the entrance gate. Because there was a vagrant there, they were hesitant to enter without an experienced CalTrans worker. Volunteers are trained never to approach vagrants without a CHP Officer or a CalTrans employee. Luckily, Craig, the CalTrans rep for the area, showed up for the first volunteer clean up. He led the way telling a homeless man that he was trespassing on state property. The man was sleeping in a lean-to constructed of plastic pipes

CROSSROADS—A COMMENTARY

Finally the day had come for the clean up of that nasty area behind Tamarind and Carlos. I had filled the truck with my usual clearing and cleaning supplies ready to meet my neighbors for a hard day's work.

I had a feeling that there was a bit of trash back there but was mentally and emotionally unprepared for what I uncovered. Before I even laid eyes on the enormous campsite, the smell had gotten my attention. With each step back into that dark overgrown area, my anger grew. A cursory glance told me that this was where drugs and alcohol were consumed, where parties were held, where street people practiced their graffiti skills and God knows what else. I was real mad.

We found drug paraphernalia, many spent cans of spray paint, pairs of shoes, urine soaked phone books, piles of human waste, pornography, and lots of beer cans. Getting closer to the center of the camp, we found all kinds of books—some science fiction and fantasy, some humorous like the "Big Book of Knock-Knock Jokes" and a Garfield book.

I found a document from Social Services stating that someone named Tommy was approved for his food stamp application (dated 8/24/04) for 40 dollars a month. Then another document (dated 9/03/04) informed him that his food stamps were terminated. I found a notice to Tommy that his application for relief had been denied because he "failed to keep your scheduled group orientation appointment without good cause."

Later, I found a speculum, one of those two-part devices used to conduct gynecological exams. I started to wonder why and how such an unusual item could find its way to such a disgusting place.

More papers were unearthed. A girl named Pamela was pregnant. These documents showed a list of places where one could go for free prenatal care, a prescription for Pamela, prenatal vitamins, and many cans of vanilla vitamin shakes similar to Ensure. Toward the end of the day, I found a card of birth control pills—with only five pills missing. She must have gotten them too late...

I found another piece of paper with handwriting on it and put it aside to read later. Somehow it felt precious to me. Suddenly I felt that Tommy and Pamela were right there with us—watching us toss their home away—and the anger began to turn to sadness. There was something very human, real, civilized and tragic about what we were finding.

Just then, as we were moving a tarp, out rolled a bunch of color crayons. We had been stumbling across comic books and there had even been one coloring book—this was truly gripping. A youngster had been living there at one time. Was that why there were so many candy

wrappers? The one piece of graffiti that had been distracting me all morning—this was his work—his first graffiti. But it was different. This etching could have been his way of making this filthy, dark hovel his only home. He was decorating! Was that his blue ball I found? His little backpack?

Was this boy Pamela's son? Or was he a runaway—a lost boy? Here he is in the center of the highest concentration of homeless social services in the city of Los Angeles and he has to sleep in this disgusting filth?

Later that day, I read that handwritten paper I'd saved. It was a letter to "Tee Jay." I think Tee Jay is Pamela's street name. Read on and you may agree:

"Thank you for staying with me. Thanks for being there. Thanks for all the things you do to show me that you care. Thanks for giving me a chance. Thanks for the time of day. Thanks for being my free ice cream on a summer's day. Thanks for sharing a gift with me. The gift of creating life. For now you're just my baby's mom, but soon you'll be my wife. Thanks for taking the time to read my stupid note. Please don't trip, just understand your man is such a dope.

Love ya Babe!!!"

He ends his note with his name, Tommy and two AKA graffiti tags.

Tommy, Pamela and the little boy have touched my heart in a special way, changing the way I view people in crisis—youth at crossroads.

During this holiday season, when you see a homeless person, try to see beyond the "homeless" to see the "person." We are all part of the same family in varying sets of circumstances in need each other's love and patience. Give generously of yourself this holiday season.

—Fran Reichenbach





CRIME REPORT

There was a robbery (purse snatching) on Beachwood Dr. at Franklin, around 8:30 p.m. in late October. The suspect is a Caucasian male, 5' 7" tall, 150-170 lbs with hair slicked back. (Call 877-ASK-LAPD if you see this person)

Burglaries in the home and from cars are up in Beachwood Canyon.

In Mid-November, between 5 and 8 p.m., a home in the 6100 block of Rodgerston Dr. was broken into and another in the 3100 block of Hollyridge Dr. was burgled. Both homes were entered by breaking a window near the front door and then unlocking it. We know that in each of these cases no alarm system was installed.

Around the same time in November, a home in the 2900 block of Hollyridge Dr. was broken into. Indeed, last July in this same block a home was burgled. The owner says many cars on the street and in their driveway have been broken into. One car on Hollyridge was recently stolen.

For those living around the 2900 block of Hollyridge, Marina Fineman is starting a neighborhood watch. Write her at mfineman@stutman.com and let her know you would like to participate.

Also, fourth district council deputy, Erik Sanjurjo,

says there is a man roaming around Hollywood posing as a police narcotics officer and using his phony identity to steal from people. He is mainly preying on the elderly. He is a Caucasian male 5'10" tall. He has been loitering around Rite Aid on Fairfax, Sunset at the Durant Library, Hollywood Blvd. at Cahuenga and at the Ralph's on the corner of Hollywood and Western. If you see him, call 9-1-1.

If you would like to create a neighborhood watch on your block, call the Hollywood LAPD's Community Relations Office at 213-485-4310.

Crime wave—Some Solutions

Crime wave! Oh my goodness! I've been involved in our neighborhood for years and years, and people I know and care for are frightened! Their cars are being broken-into, or stolen! Worse yet, their homes are being burglarized and precious items lost forever. This is heartbreaking, and I am very worried. But, what can be done about it?

Well, after I take a moment and catch my breath, I realize that extreme emotion does not help. In fact, more often than not, it makes things worse. When we are very emotional, logic becomes more distant, and important information is overlooked. So, what can be done? How can I help to keep the bad guys out of our neighborhood and make it safer?

Private Security Agencies:

Post Patrol is in our neighborhood full time, and has been since May of 2001.

I've heard several people complain, "Where was Post Patrol when the break-in occurred?" I have observed several popular misconceptions about Post.

They are not our local law enforcement. They are PRIVATE security. This means that legally they can set foot on property only when they have authorization. When one signs a patrol agreement and pays for their security services, then that property owner gives Patrol permission to enter the property and requests them to act as the agent of the property owner for security purposes.

If you haven't signed up with them, their officers have no more legal right than burglars to enter your property, even if a crime is in progress. I am a Post Patrol client, and I pay the monthly fee. It would seem unfair if I pay my monthly payment and my neighbor gets the same protection from them for free, simply because Post happens to be here. Another issue is liability. Post is not covered when they are on the property of a non-client *without an official agreement between Post and the property owner.* For Post to get involved without this agreement would create both legal and ethical problems

on several levels. Also, why should Post Patrol officers risk their lives when they are not paid for it?

My suggestion to neighbors in Beachwood Canyon is that they make an official agreement with Post. Simply put, sign up for this security right away. The more neighbors who do this, the more Post Patrol cars can be designated to our little community. How can only one patrol serve both sides of the canyon and Beachwood Drive at the same time 24/7?

Post Patrol offers Vacation services. When the homeowner is away, their services include checking all around the grounds of the home, gathering all the mail and newspapers, and 24 hour armed response if any suspicious circumstances occur around the home.

Communication

Sgt. Dennis Gartung (Post Security) told me he heard about several of our neighborhood crimes only by chance second and third hand, days after they happened. How can we lament about this terrible crime wave while we keep

our security team, our LAPD Senior Lead Officers and our neighbors in the dark? If we communicate frequently with the officers, they can see trends developing, and thereby be better able to nip a new crime wave in the bud. Being private security, Post is not fed crime reports and statistics from LAPD. They depend on the information we share with them. What can be done? Share observations with Post! **COMMUNICATION IS IMPERATIVE TO NEIGHBORHOOD SAFETY!** This is what neighborhood watch is all about.

If you are already a client, get the neighbors on either side of you to join. Also, Post clients, like most neighbors, fail to report thefts from motor vehicles along with other crimes. These reports should not only be made to the L.A.P.D. but to Post security.

Post has operators on duty 24 hours per day, 7 days per week. Call them at (800) 654-7678. The Patrol Beat Sergeant in our neighborhood is Dennis Gartung. He welcomes communication, and enjoys being with us. His cell phone

number is (626) 232-9334. I frequently contact him by email: dennisgartung@sbcglobal.net. He carries all the Patrol Agreement paperwork with him, and he'll be delighted to meet you and discuss your security needs. All of the Post Patrol officers I've met have been friendly and concerned about our neighborhood.

What else can we do about this current rash of break-ins? Keep your eye and ears open. Participate in neighborhood watch programs. Stay connected with your neighborhood association. Get on the E-mail list for crime reports and neighborhood news (write to CanyonVox@aol.com to be added to the list). Sign up with Post Security. We can work closely with the Post Security team in our neighborhood and be much safer as a result!

Post has not paid the Beachwood Voice to write this and it is the recommendation of this newspaper that Post is the way to go for a safer neighborhood. Please make an appointment with Dennis to go over the benefits of membership.

—Editor

E-CRIME WATCH

Crime reports are posted at the BCNA website: BeachwoodCanyon.org. Use the forum to share info. Keep your finger on the pulse of your neighborhood.

It's highly recommended that you report EVERY crime that you experience or see. At the very least, please let your Senior Lead Officer know if you are a victim of crime.

If you live in the Beachwood Canyon area, your Senior Lead Officer is Bill Sollie (213-793-0703 21444@lapd.lacity.org) Basic Car area 6A15.

If you live south of Franklin, west of the 101 Freeway, your Senior Lead Officer is Maria Gholizadeh (213-793-0705 30469@lapd.lacity.org) Basic Car area 6A37.

If you live south of Franklin, east of the 101 Freeway, your

Senior Lead Officer is Armen Sevdalian (213-793-0712 25156@lapd.lacity.org) Basic Car Area 6A49.

Write to CanyonVox@aol.com To be added to the Canyon-Wide Neighborhood Watch E-Crime Watch list.

Watching, taking notes, and being part of the eyes and ears of this community is what E-Crime Watch is all about.

When you hear of a crime in your neighborhood, after you have reported to the police, write to CanyonVox@aol.com and share that information with the neighborhood.

Your report will be posted on the website. If the crime is of a violent nature or if a weapon is involved, you will receive an e-mail alert.

Thanks for being a good neighbor!

Graffiti

IS A CRIME!
24-HOUR
CLEAN UP!

Write these numbers down and keep them with you:

Officer Art Holmes

Phone: 213-485-4310

Fax: 213-847-4384

See it? Report it!



Call 3-1-1

3-1-1 works in conjunction with 9-1-1 as your direct line to the City of Los Angeles for non-emergency services. 3-1-1 is your "one Call to City Hall" for services and information including:

Pothole repair, voting information, senior services, council meeting schedules, graffiti removal and more.

Calls are answered 24 hours a day, 365 days a year to provide you with information or to answer questions you may have about services or events happening within the City. If you need service, the operators will transfer you to the right service provider, the first time.

If you prefer self-service the Citywide Services Directory (CSD), the searchable database used by 3-1-1 operators, is also available via the internet at www.lacity.org.

In the 60's people took acid to make the world weird. Now the world is weird and people take Prozac to make it normal.

THE CHOCOLATE SEASON BECKONS: How a Nutritionally-Conscious Adult Responds to Desire

By Lauren O'Connor

We're all familiar with the famous "Fruits & Vegetables: Five-A-Day!" plan. My problem is that I'd have a lot more success meeting the minimum if "Five-A-Day" meant M&Ms, Hershey's Kisses and chocolate chip cookies.

With Thanksgiving over and Christmas, Chanukah and New Year's approaching, we are hurtling into the holiday season. Exposure to chocolate is everywhere--school and extracurricular bake sales, fully stocked grocery shelves, seasonal kiosks at shopping malls, overloaded buffet tables at office parties . . . you name it! Practically everywhere you turn, there will be chocolate offered.

I know I can't resist indulging in chocolate luxury when it is literally waved under my nose. I have a fantasy about a chocolate cake soufflé--or is it a nightmare? I visualize myself examining it, plated to perfection atop a drizzle of dark chocolate and silky chocolate ribbons. I feel myself helplessly succumbing to its

temptations. I imagine my first bite into that luscious, velvety rich decadent dessert. Those minute chocolate chemicals arouse wondrous tingling sensations. I become giddy and euphoric from the mood-enhancing phenylethylamine. The pleasure centers of my brain are instantly triggered and the tryptophan-inducing agent sends signals of satisfaction shooting to my extremities! I'm breathless just thinking about it.

Quite simply, chocolate gives me satisfaction, happiness, and a sense of well being. Yet I can never get away with just one small bite. Each taste makes me desire "just a little bit more" and denial of my urges only makes me feel deprived.

I console myself with the thought that chocolate contains antioxidants, substances that protect against cell damage. According to some authorities, antioxidants (which are also found in fruits and vegetables) may reduce risks of cancer and heart disease.

Yet the "nutritionist" inside me knows much

better. If the average ounce of chocolate contains 139 calories and 7.5 grams of fat, just imagine what happens when you sample a few complimentary treats while holiday shopping. Only five one-ounce chocolate candies total almost 700 calories!

Weighing good over bad, most of the year I can convince myself to choose a crisp, sweet, tangy Fuji apple instead of chocolate. Ounce per ounce, it's lower in fat and calories and generally more filling than a Baby Ruth. Maybe you prefer a different taste. Whatever your choice, remember that it's really hard to find a fruit that's bad for you.

But as the holidays draw near, my chocolate abyss widens. Temptations become harder to squelch. What would Halloween be without the search for Almond Joys, Reese's

Peanut Butter Cups, Milky Ways and Butterfingers? Thanksgiving is a celebration of plentitude, and "feast" is its middle

danced in their heads." No one's going to replace the Sugar Plum Fairy with an "apple goddess." Sugar and chocolate are embedded in the season, and Christmas is not going to let you forget it!

I may never tame my desire for chocolate. But I accept its benefits and know its consequences. I strive to make better choices each time a chocolate-inspired holiday approaches. I arm myself with plenty of fruits and vegetables and tackle each craving, one bite at a time. And I remind myself that the real Bridget Jones probably isn't anywhere near as tiny as Renee Zellweger.



The author ponders over tempting chocolates or fruit. Which is the healthier choice?

name. In December, nobody says "How'd you like a nice healthy orange?" Instead, Mom always coaxes me with "How 'bout another piece of that chocolate pecan pie?" The writer didn't say "and visions of apples

—Lauren O'Connor is a member of the Student Nutrition Association, California State University, Los Angeles

REMEMBER! STRESSED spelled backwards=DESSERTS.



'Twas the day after Christmas, and all through the house, Every creature was hurtin', even the mouse. The toys were all broken, their batteries dead; Santa passed out, with some ice on his head.

Wrapping and ribbons just covered the floor, while upstairs the family continued to snore. And I in my T-shirt, new Reeboks and jeans, I went into the kitchen and started to clean.

When out on the lawn there arose such a clatter, I sprang from the sink to see what was the matter. Away to the window I flew like a flash, Tore open the curtains, and threw up the sash.

When what to my wondering eyes should appear, But a little white truck, with an oversized mirror. The driver was smiling, so lively and grand; The patch on his jacket said "U.S. POSTMAN."

With a handful of bills, he grinned like a fox, Then quickly he stuffed them into our mailbox. Bill after bill, after bill, they still came. Whistling and shouting he called them by name:

"Now Dillard's, now Broadway's, now Sears and Robinson's. Here's Penney's, Levitz's, Target and Mervyn's. To the tip of your limit, every store, every mall, You charged away--charged away--charged away all!"

He whooped and he whistled as he finished his work. He filled up the box, and then turned with a jerk. He sprang to his truck and he drove down the road, Driving much faster with just half a load. Then I heard him exclaim with great holiday cheer, "Enjoy what you got . . . you'll be paying all year!"

Bring your family to the






T

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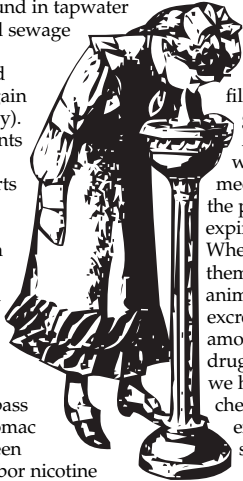
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Writers and photographers... We'd like to showcase your work. Send your submissions to: canyonvox@aol.com or 2751 Westshire Dr., Hollywood, CA 90068

There is WHAT in My Drinking Water?

We don't really know what we are drinking! Prozac, Ibuprofen, nepamil, genfibrozil, diverse antibiotics, nicotine, estrogen, etc. All of these have been found in tapwater and in treated sewage runoff water (recycling and recharging again come into play).

The amounts found are usually in parts per trillion. These have been found in Canadian waters and in the U.S. Notably, 49 to 79 percent of male smallmouth bass from the Potomac River have been shown to harbor nicotine and caffeine. In Colorado, the waterways produce "intersex" males and females in the fish population. These have difficulty reproducing. Amphibians such as frogs are disappearing, as they are the most sensitive biometers



of the environment.

Why? What is the source? Every time you throw away prescription drugs, they go into the groundwater.

Chicken droppings, cattle droppings and the runoff from these slaughterhouses is filled with steroids—growth hormones. As a population we are taking more medications than in the past. These have expiration dates. Where did you throw them? Human and animal urine and feces excrete considerable amounts of these drugs. Consequently, we have hundreds of chemical compounds entering our water systems.

How about our water supply in this canyon? I spoke with Mike Greensmeyer of the L.A. D.W.P. He confirmed that the D.W.P. does not test for these elusive compounds. In fact it doesn't even check for viruses according to Mr.

Greensmeyer. He states that they don't have the expensive equipment needed.

Europe and Japan have instigated studies on ways to rid drinking water of these toxins using hypersensitive nanoscale filtration techniques. The U.S. is approximately twenty-five years behind Europe and Japan in initiating similar studies. It is a case of governmental priorities in spending.

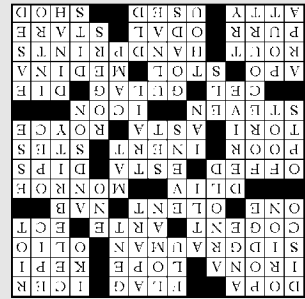
Since these chemicals are already impacting wildlife and entering our own food and water chain, we must act now. It is estimated by water researchers that as much as sixty-five percent of our population is at risk when it comes to the nation's tap water. Children, the elderly, diabetics, and those with immune disorders, all are affected by even slightly contaminated water. You cannot mix baby formula by using our own canyon tap water without endangering your child.

How are we to accept the idea of drinking "recharged" or recycled water by the year

HOLLYWORDS

Lasting Impressions

Answers
(Puzzle on Page 8)



2020 (goal set by the state of California) when our current supply is in question by admission of our own D.W.P.? The task is daunting, but a first step would be for the D.W.P. to send water samples out to laboratories that test for these known esoteric pollutants and to monitor and report on them. We deserve as much. This state told us that we would never use recycled water for potable purposes. They changed all of their mission statements as the population grew and water became a more critical issue.

Contact the State Water Resources Board and the D.W.P. and ask them to start testing now. Knowledge is power—and time is short!

State Water Resources Board
www.swrb.ca.gov/rwqcb4
320 W. 4th St. Suite 200
Los Angeles, CA 90013
213-576-6600
213-576-6640 fax

—Dr. William A. Emboden
(with thanks to
Fran Reichenbach,
The Health Services Board of
Canada and
Mike Greensmeyer of the
D.W.P.)

Water, Indoctrination and the "Yuck" Factor

Many of us oppose the use of "reclaimed" or recycled water as an alternative source of drinking water. We are not convinced that it is "fail-safe" to drink refuse from toilets, mortuaries, hospitals, etc. even after processing.

Living in Los Angeles we have no choice but to breathe smog containing a variety of chemicals, metals, gases and particulate matter. It is estimated that the result of this will be diminished during our anticipated life span. The perception on a daily basis is that we are doing just fine and are not harmed. Studies over time have demonstrated evidence to the contrary.

A group of moneyed sponsors to include the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation and the California State Resources Council are hiring a group of psychologists to "desensitize" us in an attempt to get us to overcome our aversion to, and suspicions of, "recycled" or "reclaimed" water. They sponsor symposia and circulate publications by psychologists (not scientists)

to explore ways to reprogram our thinking. They also hold workshops teaching our water bureaucrats how to speak to us about water, using terminology they hope we will find acceptable in order to alter our attitudes regarding recycled raw sewage. It is their assertion, using NO long-term scientific studies, that large numbers of people receiving recycled water have suffered no apparent ill effects.

Do you want your tax dollars to be used by these state and federal agencies for such purposes? I certainly do not! But it is a reality at present.

Instead, why not hold an open exploratory forum? We must oppose this sinister attempt at mind control and brain-washing. Who authorized such indoctrination that, among other issues, hopes to eliminate "the yuck factor" and break "the toilet to tap chain"? These terms are found in a summary of one such "workshop" called *Assessment Workshop: Human Reactions to Water Reuse*. In this document, this research

group states, "The yuck factor can be traced to two aspects: (1) the public's psychological repugnance to wastewater, and (2) the inability to definitively demonstrate that all potentially hazardous anthropogenic compounds that may be present in the wastewater have been eliminated or reduced to insignificant levels. Other sources of water, especially bottled water sold in stores, are far more acceptable." Clearly, since there is currently NO way to demonstrate that toxins can be eliminated or "reduced to insignificant levels," what right do they have going forward with any version of toilet to tap? They would like us to turn our faces from this truth, listen to the propaganda and swallow the will (processed though it may be).

It is the contention of this coalition that risk management assessment is always political. No scientists would ever conduct risk management studies *before* experimentation. Yet governmental money propels this group to explore ways to convince us that the resultant

product will be clean beyond question. They even suggest seeking out a spokesperson, a supporter that is a well-known public figure with a pristine image to diffuse the existing yuck factor.

Throughout the workshop summary, there are many references to "the [water] industry," to "public funds," and to psychology with relatively NOTHING on people's health and the science (or lack thereof) of recycled refuse. Their agenda is simply to reprogram us into accepting the unacceptable.

It is a non-scientific, government-sponsored program. NO water experts or biologists participated. Very curious! This document on reprogramming the public should be circulated to every resident in Orange County and Los Angeles. To request a copy, write to them at WaterReuse Foundation, 635 Slater's Lane 3d Floor, Alexandria, Virginia, 22314. Or call them at 703-684-2481 or ask for it via e-mail by writing to jeffmosher@WaterReuse.org.

—Dr. William Emboden and Fran Reichenbach



Most "terrorists" are reported to the US legally, but they then hang around on expired visas, some for as long as 10 to 15 years. At Blockbuster Video if you're 2 days late with a video, those people are all over you. So why isn't Blockbuster in charge of immigration?

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Hello,

I am writing from New Zealand. Yes, far away, but I was drawn to your website by the article in the spring 2003 edition on the tragic death of Royce Applegate. I was watching a video of a movie he was involved with and wanted to learn more about him, and ended up reading about his death last year. How awful.

I then read about your problem with the Village Voice in New York, and how your names were too similar for their liking. Well I thought you would be interested to know that the long arm of American litigiousness stretches even to a remote part of the South Island of New Zealand.

An historic old hotel located in a former mining town (pop. about 370) was taken over by a new owner some years ago, renamed "The Blackball Hilton," and made a backpacker's hotel, where (mainly) young travellers could stay (relatively) cheaply. Well eventually this tongue in cheek naming was discovered by the Hilton chain, and they were forced (under threat like you), to change it. It's now called "Formerly The Blackball Hilton" which seems to have satisfied the lawyers!

You can see them at <http://www.blackballhilton.co.nz/> I congratulate you on such an interesting publication, and I will be checking it for a taste of what it is like to live in a lovely part of L.A.

Regards

—Peter Weekes
Auckland, New Zealand

Dear Editor,

In response to Missy Kelly's "The School Next Door" article in the Fall 2004 issue where she wrote, "It seems that one of the trends in parenting today is dropping your child off without parking the car or walking the child to the door of the school," I would like to point out that some of us parents DID park and walk our children into Cheremoya School in the mornings. But then one day we were greeted by a parking enforcement officer ticketing our cars. When I asked her why we can't park there for a few minutes while leaving our children off, she said that it's a passenger loading zone and that any car parked there without a driver in it before 9:00 a.m. is in violation. All I could do was assume this officer is not a mother and, thereafter, kiss my son good-bye from the curb.

—Theresa Danna
Mother to "Cheremoya Star" AJ Danna

The morning parking restrictions along the East side of Cheremoya Avenue Elementary School (this is the west side curb on Cheremoya Avenue) allow parents to drop their children off in the morning—it is a passenger loading and unloading only zone. In the afternoon, from 2—4 p.m., the parking restriction is 15 minutes parking to allow parents to enter the schoolyard and get their children. All children arrive at school at the same time every day. However, what time they get out of school varies during those hours.

—Missy

Editors:

As a LAUSD teacher I was appalled, though not surprised, to read Missy Kelly's account of traffic and bad and dangerous behavior around Cheremoya School. I have some suggestions for the beleaguered residents.

First the residents should have a discussion with Principal Stehr and present him with a letter of complaint. Mr. Stehr should then tell the residents what he plans to do about the problem. One thing he will no doubt attempt will be a letter home to the parents, but it sounds like these parents need a stronger incentive to behave.

(As the article pointed out, Mr. Stehr is an excellent communicator. He has sent fliers home with students, had assemblies to speak with the parents. —Missy)

Should an alleviation of the problem not be forthcoming quickly, the residents should contact the Cheremoya District Office, by telephone and with a copy of the complaints. The District has the power to assign school police to the school, or may decide to involve the LAPD.

(Due to the shortage of officers LAPD is unable to patrol our area on a regular basis. —Missy)

Citizens have every right to call the LAPD directly, as well. My experience has been that working through the school is usually a more effective choice. At our school warnings and a few tickets by both the School Police (when possible) and LAPD made a big difference.

(Since the cars are on the street, the school district's and the school police authority ends at the gate in the school yard. —Missy)

While keeping in mind that the traffic is going to be there no matter what else happens, there is no excuse for endangering children or blocking residents. Teachers know this and complain mightily, but no one listens to us. When the residents make their voices heard, the school district listens!!

(The residents have met repeatedly with the City Council office, LAUSD, Cheremoya Avenue Elementary school, School police, and parking enforcement. Thank you for your suggestions. Maybe you'd like to be one of the voices that can speak to these entities when problems escalate. Send e-mail to the BV and you can be added to the list of residents making a difference. —Missy)

I hope I read a follow-up column with good news on this front!

—Alexa Maxwell



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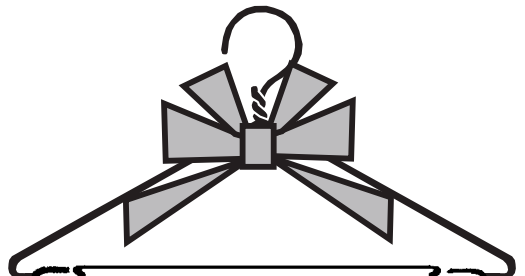
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THE LOS ANGELES FIRE DEPARTMENT NEEDS YOUR HELP!

The Los Angeles Fire Department (LAFD) is doing everything it can to prepare for a potentially severe brush fire season. Your help is urgently needed. There are many areas in your neighborhood that become inaccessible to Firefighters due to illegal parking. When a Fire Engine is blocked by an illegally parked car, Firefighters will be delayed and your life and home could be lost! In recent years, several deaths and millions of dollars in fire damage were directly related to blocked and narrowed streets.

What You Can Do To Help the LAFD!

- Follow all posted and local area parking restrictions both night and day.
- Report illegally parked vehicles immediately: (818)752-5100 or (213)485-4184
- If you live on a narrow street or in the hills, always park your vehicle in your driveway or garage.

When Is It Unsafe To Park On The Street?

- If your street is less than 28' wide, it is unsafe and illegal to park on any side.
- If you live near a curve on a narrow street, it is unsafe to park near the curved area if it will prevent an emergency vehicle from passing.
- If your street is less than 36' wide, it is unsafe and illegal for vehicles to be parked on both sides of the street. Parking is allowed on one side only.
- It is unsafe and illegal to park within 15' of a fire hydrant.

NOTE: Illegally parked vehicles will be immediately ticketed and/or towed.

Additional considerations:

If you are required to evacuate, remember to allow access for emergency vehicles.

Prepare a list of valuables that you cannot risk losing in a fire (i.e. photos, documents, computer files, etc.), and keep this list readily available. Preparing such a list now will allow you to quickly gather these items if an evacuation is necessary.

Visit your Neighborhood Fire Station or WWW.LAFD.ORG for more information.

Remember, Brush Fire Safety Is Everyone's Responsibility!

Holiday Safety Tips

Each year fires occurring during the holiday season injure over 2,000 individuals and cause over \$500 million in damages nationwide.

There are simple life-saving steps you can take to ensure a safe and happy holiday. By following some of these tips, you can greatly reduce your family's chances of becoming a holiday fire casualty.

Preventing Holiday Tree Fires

Special fire safety precautions need to be taken when keeping a cut tree in the house. A burning tree can rapidly fill a room with fire and deadly gases.

Selecting a Tree for the Holiday

Needles of fresh trees should be green and hard to pull back from the branches, and the needle should not break if the tree has been freshly cut. The trunk should be sticky to the touch. To identify old and dry trees bounce the tree trunk on the ground. This will cause dry needles to fall off the tree. If lots of needles fall, it is probably too dry and a fire hazard.

Caring for Your Tree

Do not place your tree close to a heat source, including a fireplace, heat vent or space heater. The heat will dry out the tree causing it to be more easily ignited by heat, flame, or sparks. Be careful not to drop or flick cigarette ashes near a tree. Do not put your live tree up too early or leave it up longer than two weeks. Keep the tree stand filled up with water at all times.

Disposing of Your Tree

Never put tree branches or needles in a fireplace or wood-burning stove. When the tree becomes dry, discard it promptly. The best way to dispose of your tree is by taking it to a recycling center or having it hauled away by a community pick up service.

Your neighborhood Fire Station and the Department of Sanitation are providing a **tree recycling** dumpster located across from Fire Station 82 at 1800 N. Bronson Avenue. The dumpster will be available from December 27 to approximately the second week of January. Please remove all tree stands and tinsel prior to disposing of your tree.

Do Not Overload Electrical Outlets

Use only United Laboratories (UL) approved lights. Do not link more than three light strands together unless the directions indicate it is safe. Connect the strings of lights to an extension cord *before* plugging the cord into the outlet. Make sure to periodically check the wires—they should not be warm to the touch. Never leave lights on when you are not at home.

Holiday Decorations

All decorations should be nonflammable or flame-retardant and placed away from heat vents.

Wrapping Paper

Never put wrapping paper in a fireplace. It can throw off dangerous sparks and produce toxic and flammable gases.

Artificial Holiday Trees

If you are using a metallic or artificial tree, make sure it is flame retardant.

Use Care with Candles

Candles can be dangerous. If you do use them, make sure they are in stable holders and place them where they cannot be easily knocked over. Never leave the house with candles burning.

Never put lit candles on a tree. Do not go near a holiday tree with an open flame, candles, lighters or matches.

Smoke Detectors

Finally, as in every season, have working smoke alarms installed on every level of your home. Test them monthly and keep them clean and equipped with fresh batteries at all times. Know when and how to call for help. And remember to practice your home escape plan.

Have a happy and safe holiday season from the members of Fire Station 82 and the Battalion 5 Commanders.

Additional Information

Additional information on such topics as fire safety, terrorism, CERT Program, and Fire Weather information can be found on our web site at www.lafd.org

Have a safe Holiday and a Happy New Year!

—Submitted by Captain Brian Dameron
Fire Station 82.



You hold in your hands a rare offering to the Hollywood community. The Beachwood VOICE is the ONLY free publication that is created and delivered by neighbors to thousands of homes. Here are the faithful neighbors who have been delivering the Beachwood VOICE since its beginning in 1998. We couldn't do this without them!

Special thanks to the Curves Volunteers for distributing to Hollywood Dell and (first time ever!) the Oaks neighborhood!

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My Summer Vacation

Rome on the Fly

I found myself in Rome performing for the Cirque du Soleil premiere party of Saltimbanco as well as the world famous club, Goa. I was only there for four days and thought I would at least get to visit a few of the



Before a performance in Rome, Anna lights her fire hoop.

incredible historic sites. But, I was getting such a thorough introduction to the city's nightlife (by some of the most elite party goers in Rome) that my days were spent getting much needed rest. I was privileged to dance each night to some of the best electronic music in the world (until well past sunrise)! So, my trip may not have encompassed the usual sight-seeing, but I got a taste of the underground Rome that few tourists get to see. My

recommendation is to follow the old adage: When in Rome do as the Romans do... Which, apparently is: Dance your butt off!

—Anah Reichenbach aka Hoopaliscious hoopaliscious@yahoo.com

Under the Real Tuscan Sun



After seeing the movie "Under the Tuscan Sun," my husband Carl and I decided to accept a friend's invitation to come to Italy for a much needed vacation.

So off we went, to a place outside the walled city of Lucca in Tuscany to Santa Pietra. A short 20-minute taxi ride from Pisa, Santa Pietra is famous as Small Athens—the world center for artistic processing with bronze and marble. The city showed itself to us as a simple and short walk through romantic roads where we came across masterpieces of past and present art. The many artists' demonstrate their skill by creating statues out of rough stone blocks harvested from Carrara, a mountain that looks snow-covered, but is in fact made of white marble.

We visited Portofino (\$4 round trip by train) and Cinque-Terre, five small

towns nestled in the cliffs along the Italian Riviera. The beauty is unmatched; the winding narrow streets, the vinyettes, surprising little churches far above the cliffs looking down on the sparkling turquoise green sea below. Clean air, fresh fish, bread and wine. What more can you ask for? Book your flight. You'll love it!

—Nina VanTassel

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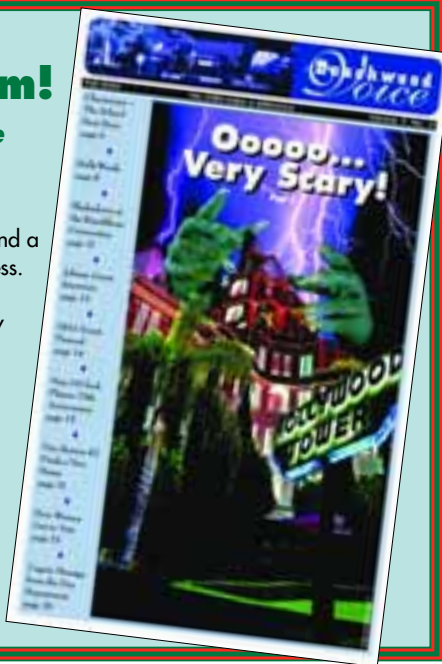
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Jazz vocalist Kurt Reichenbach has recorded an album of mellow jazz ballads, *The Night Was Blue*, arranged and produced by his brother, composer/performer Bill Reichenbach. Joining them in this musical celebration is their father, famed drummer Bill Reichenbach, Sr. (Tommy Dorsey, Art Mooney, Charlie Byrd...), bassist Tom Warrington, and pianist Biff Hannon. The CD also features some incredible solos by jazz legends Don Menza, Ernie Watts, Dan Higgins, Larry Koonse, Mike Lang, Carl Saunders, and Gary Grant (also co-producer), as well as Bill on bass trombone and bass trumpet. "This is a dream come true for me," says Kurt, "to get to work with my Dad and my brother on a project like this. And the soloists are truly amazing. It was a joyous experience."

JazzTimes critic Christopher Loudon says, "...when a truly impressive new guy joins [the] ranks, it's definitely something to celebrate. Such a fellow—one who can stand shoulder to shoulder with the likes of

Kurt Elling, John Pizzarelli and Curtis Stigers—is Kurt Reichenbach.... His dusky baritone, imbued with a sandy silkiness that simultaneously suggests the robust bravado of Bobby Darin and effortless sophistication of Jackie Paris, makes *The Night Was Blue* one of the most dynamic vocal debuts of the past decade. Kurt's got the chops...Spread the word."

The late King of Jazz Radio, Chuck Niles, said, "I don't usually play vocal albums on my show, but I play this one. You should give *The Night Was Blue* a serious listen."

To hear selections from the CD, visit www.cdfreedom.com and do a search for "Reichenbach." The CD retails for \$15 plus S&H at CDFreedom, but *Beachwood Voice* readers can get it for just \$10 plus \$1.50 S&H by sending a check along with your mailing information to: Kurt Reichenbach, 1615 N. Martel Ave., #306, LA, CA 90046. Or pay via PayPal to email address kurtguy@aol.com.

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