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### From the Publisher CLIF SMITH

## BASKING IN THE BLIZZARD

A few weeks ago, this column suggested that the earth was laughing at mankind for claiming we caused the globe to warm up. Now, the planet is guffawing so hard we may get some extra earthquakes.

Two days ago, the U.S. Senate had to cancel its hearing on man-made global warming because of the blizzard. Washington D.C. can't work a quarter of their snow plows. Everywhere in North America (except Vancouver, the site of the Winter Olympics) is buried in snow or suffering cold spells. Al Gore and Robert Kennedy, Jr. are being shown as, well, not that bright. Chicago, Baltimore, Philadelphia look like Antarctica. The earth is not warming up. Man is not causing the oceans to rise. The entire climate alarmist elite look more and more foolish every day.

The news gets better. India is withdrawing from the U.N. climate panel because the data is faked. The British government is criminally investigating its scientists for hiding research. More and more scientists are speaking up, finally challenging doctored and questionable data they know is invented from thin air or manipulated (like thermometers placed next to direct heat sources). We now know that the cabal that has been running the global climate hoax has been systematically black-balling and ostracizing those who dared challenge them.

This is hilarious. The ultimate blow came last Sunday during the Super Bowl with Audi's great commercial about the environmental police. If you have not seen it, you must catch it on YouTube. There is simply no way to do it justice in writing. You must see it. It presents the logical conclusion of policies now in force and getting there. The climate police have already forced us out of top-loading washing machines, into compact fluorescents (apparently mercury is no longer a health hazard), giant whooshing windmills that make offshore oil platforms look attractive, computer-aided automobiles that run away with you and won't stop, and grocery stores that cannot give us plastic bags anymore (how do you pick up after your dog on walks?).

Maybe the real problem is too many people without enough to do. They all end up in academia or government trying to figure out more ways to dictate to the rest of us. As a nation and as a state, we're broke, but even Antonio Villaraigosa—the ex-union organizer—cannot lay off a few union workers to save his city from financial catastrophe.

No wonder Scott Brown won in Massachusetts.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The distressing condition of difficult and cannot occur unless BHUSD is clearly defined in two the change agent (necessarily, the headlines on the front page of last superintendent) is permanent and week. "BHUSD School Board respected as such by the community. Considers Teachers Layoff" and ty. Without demeaning the dis-"Beverly Hills Still Looking For trict's caretaker superintendent, he Superintendent." How sad it is a temp with all of the attributes of that what was viewed as a "light- any temp. To now "begin the house" district, one of the five best process" of finding a new superintendent in the country only three decades ago, now wallows in mediocrity, how far our district has fallen. Why? Read the headlines.

No district can achieve greatness without a topnotch superintendent who is not only the CEO, but also the chief educator. For more than two years while the board has endlessly dithered about out-of-district students, we have not had a real superintendent, merely a caretaker. No temporary superintendent can put into effect the educational changes necessary for superiority. Change is always staff represent 85 percent of the

With respect to teacher layoffs, benefits BHUSD was going to achieve by getting rid of half of the opportunity permit students, never once was it demonstrated how it would save a nickel. To the contrary, boardmembers insisted there would be savings, without any supporting factual data, and without the argument was, of the course, false since teachers and staff represent 85 percent of the

## OPINION

### RABBI JACOB PRESSMAN



## HUMPS, BUMPS, DIPS AND GRINDERS

No, "Humps, Bumps, Dips and Grinders" is not the name of a new dance craze. It has more to do with Civil Engineering and road construction in particular. A short automobile tour around Beverly Hills and West L.A. will alert you to how closely your comfort is connected with these four conditions of the road upon which we drive

Permit me to define. In the world of asphalt, macadam and drainage, you will inevitably see before you on the road a little asphalt pillow which gives you a gentle rise and fall described in advance as a HUMP. If you slow down a bit, you glide over it comfortably.

A BUMP, however, means what it says. It rises higher than a HUMP and is a bit pointier on top. Approach it respectfully and slow down a bit, or else you may get a bouncing jolt which will rattle the fillings in your teeth and challenge the shock absorbers on your car. The BUMP is telling you that the residents on either side of that street grew sick and tired of drivers turning their formerly quiet little byway into a roaring freeway and forced the city to do something about it.

A DIP is a little gully at a crossroad, which, will that pole cause before the City alters the conditions to prevent the next one? \*\*\*\*\* Ben Stuart

To read in *The Courier*, the Board of Education is commencing discussions regarding layoffs now the out-of-district student issue has been resolved is a betrayal of the promises and commitments of those members whose insistence on removal of permit children and commitment to a no-layoff policy is now shown to be hollow. It is a classic example of why politicians are viewed at the bottom of the pile by the general public in terms of honesty and integrity.

Perhaps it is time for our community to start all over with a new Board of Education that is focused on excellence in education, and nothing else. Richard A. Stone \*\*\*\*\*

After reading Clif Smith's comments: "This column is not going to comment of President Barack Obama's State of the union speech," etc., it was apparent he did make a comment—actually many.

If he was going to let people digest it, he should have allowed time for them to do so rather than release something so underhanded and negative. I guess it's hard for some people to finally have a president who is brilliant, an articulate orator and respected. I do not agree with everything President Obama is coming up with but look what he came into.

This country needs a major overhaul and I'm sure that it can't be done in four years. However, if we are supposed to be the "model" country, surely he is the one who will put America back on top where we belong. Deborah Joyce \*\*\*\*\*

Last Thursday night as we returned to the City traveling east on Wilshire, we were horrified to see another bad car wreck against the same pole at Whittier and Wilshire where a student was killed a few years ago when our daughters were at El Rodeo, and the same pole where a student was killed when my wife was at Beverly.

How many deaths and injury

if you insist on ignoring the warning and barrel over it could bounce your head against your car's ceiling, and maybe even crack your rear axle. Why is it there? It harks back to the days of frantic development of new land in greater Los Angeles when haste and economics prevented installing decent sewer systems. Somebody in authority figured: "It rarely ever rains here to necessitate costly sewers. We'll just dig little trenches at crossroads and the rainwater will flow merrily down them."

This worked out fine until a big rain, when the gullies became rivers, or a prolonged drought during which cars went crashing across the DIPS. Over the years more sewer systems have been installed and the DIPS filled in, but there are still notoriously malevolent crossings where you can get "all shook up" so be alert.

I have not even mentioned GRINDERS, which are BUMPS divided into two sections not in the same line. These shake your car viciously from side to side as you pass over them, as, for example in the entrance road to the Beverly High parking structure.

Pleasant driving, everyone! \*\*\*\*\*

This is to express my appreciation to our community and supporters of The Breast Preservation Foundation having just led a small delegation to Washington, DC to educate representatives on both sides of the healthcare debate about the lack of accessibility to skin sparing mastectomy operations many breast cancer patients face. The BPF promotes the use of equally effective but less mutilating breast cancer operations through a program of public and medical education. In Washington, we enjoyed a warm, understanding reception from our scheduled and unscheduled visits, and were heartened to find alot of support for our little known issue. The simple logic of encouraging breast cancer operations that cause less disfigurement struck a nerve and engendered such enthusiasm, in fact, that our entire delegation of three was invited to watch the president's State of the Union address. It was a memorable experience and we left encouraged that regardless of our political viewpoint, the men and women representing us in Washington are still quite accessible and open to a simple good idea. Joel A. Aronowitz, MD

I have overheard quite often within the past few months that Beverly Hills is not quite what it used to be. They are right. Its actually getting better. While the City has been hurt by the current economic climate it is a mere drop in the bucket compared to what other cities in California are going through. Real estate values in Beverly Hills are holding strong with some retail spaces selling for near record prices and infrastructure continues to improve and grow.

Beverly Hills is not losing its luster but simply being re-polished for the next generation. We are the most recognized city in America if not the world. Things change. And as you look around the City, they are changing for the better.

We have our problems, and challenges that perhaps this City has never faced. But I have no doubt it will emerge even stronger, leaner, and more efficient than before. So before we all start singing: "Where have you gone Fred Hayman?" roll up your sleeves and lets start laying the groundwork for a new golden age here. Adam Vargas



Cartoon for *The Courier* by Janet Salter