

LETTERS TO THE TIMES

Online Speech

■ A 19-year-old freshman from Texas named Jose Saavedra objects to California legislation relaxing hunting controls on mountain lions (May 25). Saavedra posts what is by any reasonable standard a tongue-in-cheek e-mail bulletin board message suggesting California state Sen. Tim Leslie should be "hunted down and skinned and mounted for our viewing pleasure." The student's sarcasm costs him 16 days in an El Paso County jail.

I would love to tell you what I think should be done to the Sacramento County district attorney who decided to prosecute Saavedra, but my ideas are not pleasant, and I am now too afraid of being imprisoned for my opinions to express them.

JAMES E. MOORE II
Assistant Dean for Computing
USC

B8 FRIDAY, MAY 31, 1996

LOS ANGELES TIMES



Valley Secession and Tujunga History

■ I'd like to thank Robert Jones (Essay, May 22) for pointing out some of the very good arguments against Valley secession. For the record, however, I'd like to clean up one very basic point: I opposed secession from the start.

While I understand people's frustration with government, I do not believe secession is the answer.

In the Valley and throughout the city, Angelenos have felt short-changed for years. That's why I ran for mayor in 1993; that's why I've fought to shake up the bureaucracy and chart a new course for Los Angeles.

We are making progress, but I'm still not satisfied. Working together, we'll continue to move this city in the right direction.

RICHARD J. RIORDAN
Mayor of Los Angeles

■ As someone who enjoys local history, I was pleased to see Kevin Starr's article ("Deconstructing Los Angeles," Opinion, May 26), and even though I am in favor of secession, was gratified to read Starr's argument against it.

However, at risk of seeming like a Tujunga booster, there are two corrections I would like to propose in reference to my hometown. First, Tujunga was not annexed to Los Angeles in 1915 as the article implies, but in 1932. At that time local citizens voted 718 to 659 to join

the city. Several lawsuits were filed at the time claiming the election was rigged.

As for the "gnome" name, Tujunga is one of many California names taken from the Shoshone. The "nga" ending means "place of." And Tujunga is generally translated as "place of the old woman" or "place of the earth mother."

KIRK A. WEISS
Tujunga

■ Starr attempts to make a case for opposition to the secession of the San Fernando Valley from the city of Los Angeles to become its own city.

Says Starr, "It's time for Valley Los Angeles to cease being a victim and start being a leader... saving the city and saving itself." Well, Valley leaders are exercising leadership and their choice is self-determination of their own future.

After the fiasco and utter failure of Rebuild LA, which purportedly involved a citywide, federally subsidized effort to repair the city after the riots, it is absurd and ludicrous

to suggest the the Valley must assume a lead role in fixing the longer-running, systemic problems which challenge Angelenos. Let the Valley exert its own will and become all it can be, including a good neighbor city to Los Angeles. Starr's case for rejecting Valley cityhood is specious. It should be rejected and the decision of Valley citizens should prevail in the choice to become a city or remain part of Los Angeles.

MIKE LENNON
Irvine

Los Angeles Times

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Published by The Times Mirror Company

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Smoking

■ Shakespeare on cigarette smoking: "And all our yesterdays have lighted fools the way to dusty death" (MacBeth, Act V, Scene V).

JERRY HAMBLETON
Laguna Beach

HOW TO WRITE TO US

The Times welcomes expressions of all views. Letters should be brief and are subject to condensation. They must include valid mailing address and telephone number. Pseudonyms and initials will not be used. Because of the volume of mail received, unpublished letters cannot be acknowledged.

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