

Letters to the editor

December 17, 1998
 Mr. J. Alan Jones
 P.O. Box 292376, Los Angeles, CA 90029

Dear Mr. Jones:

My wife and I were shocked and dismayed by your letter to the Editor of The Overview complaining about the noise emanating from the LILA school and the shoddy appearance of the campus. We think that your complaints are unfair and that some of the statements you made are inaccurate. We are very pleased to have LILA as a neighbor because we believe its presence enhances the desirability of Franklin Hills as a residential community, and its property values. Also, LILA has been a friend to the Franklin Hills Residents Association, opening its private facilities for use by the Association as a meeting place. We deplore having LILA treated unfairly.

We live on Ronda Vista Drive above the LILA school. Upon reading your letter we spoke with Adam Weisman, who gave us some background information on your complaint. Mr. Weisman also informed us that your home is on Franklin close by ours. We too sometimes hear the LILA students when they are playing or engaged in other activities outside the school buildings. We also hear the students at Marshall High when they are outside playing.

Your letter seeks to set LILA (265 students) apart as a special case - a bad school which "condones loud yelling and screaming" while all the other schools in the neighborhood control their students. Did you actually check the noise level at Franklin Elementary (500 students), King (2000 students) and Marshall (4,500 students) before writing your letter? We did so after reading your letter and found the noise levels at Franklin Elementary and King louder than at LILA during student recreation periods. The difference, Mr. Jones, is that your home and ours are so distant from Franklin Elementary and King that we don't hear their students when they are on the grounds playing or eating. Fact is that grammar school and junior high school age are on the whole more exuberant and noisy than older students; perhaps it's possible to suppress that exuberance, but should we want to do so? We think not.

The Overview welcomes submissions from readers, whether in the form of personal essays, stories or expressions of concerns. The editor reserves the rights to edit and to not publish submissions.

Please address your contributions to:

Editor,
 The Overview, P.O. Box 29122
 Los Angeles California 90029

We don't find the noise made by children at play upsetting because it's normal and healthy for children released, from class to let off some steam and sound off; we believe most other Franklin Hills residents accept and even welcome such happy sounds coming from schools. Why do you only zero in on the sounds made by school children at intermittent recreation periods during the day? Why no apparent concern about the noise created during sleep time by helicopters overhead or by barking dogs?

In your letter, you also referred to complaints by others than yourself about, "the litter problem and disgraceful trailer park atmosphere of the school yard." We were on the school grounds recently and saw no litter nor anything which could be considered unsightly or unkempt. LILA uses bungalows as do all the other neighborhood schools. LILA's bungalows are freshly painted and they certainly do not create a trailer park atmosphere, any more than bungalows on the other campuses do.

It strikes us that while you ask LILA to be a better neighbor, the manner in which you are voicing your concerns is anything but neighborly. We called LILA after reading your letter and were told that you have never spoken to school personnel directly concerning your complaints. Shouldn't that have been your first step before going into petition mode? And how much better it would have been if you had aired your complaints at a meeting of FHRA, rather than by forming a new organization, and initiating a petition drive. What comes next, a Franklin Hills Group to Defend LILA followed by civil war in Franklin Hills?

One of the main reasons we moved to Franklin Hills more than forty years ago, was because we found it relatively quiet and peaceful. Much to our delight, the noise level on the Hill has increased little if at all during that span of time. Consider also that the school buildings used by LILA were constructed about thirty-five years ago and one school or

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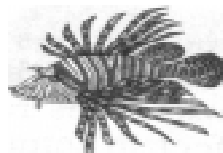
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