

LETTERS TO THE TIMES

Renaming Berendo
to Hubbard Way

■ The article regarding the renaming of Berendo Street to L. Ron Hubbard Way (Aug. 23) omits the reason that Hubbard should be honored and the reason the church initiated the petition over a year ago. The man is being honored for the work that he did as an educator, his breakthroughs in the field of drug rehabilitation and his other contributions to mankind. The Los Angeles Church of Scientology is making this request after celebrating our 40th anniversary and completing a full restoration of the original Church of Scientology.

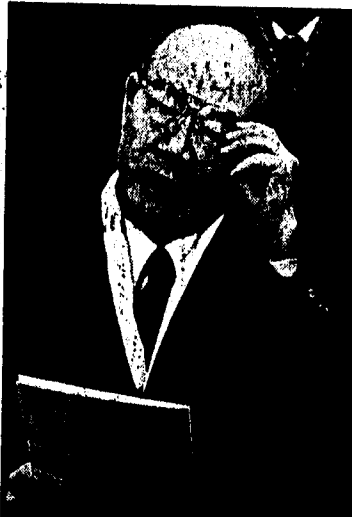
We know that our neighbors benefit from the perimeter of safety the church provides them. The church has enjoyed its relationship with our neighbor to the north, Kaiser Permanente, and we have worked with the other two neighboring hospitals on disaster strategies, including countywide disaster drills. Our staff has reached out to neighborhood children with weekend programs and we continue to work to ensure the area is cleared of criminal elements.

CORY BRENNAN
Director of Community Affairs
Church of Scientology of L.A.

■ What's in a name anyway, asks your article. The address 415 S. Berendo St. represents lovely lawns and flowers surrounding a lovely building with four large three-bedroom apartments in which my mother, brother, my stepfather and I finally found the beginning of the American dream in May 1949. We were survivors of the Shoah and although we arrived in America in late 1947, it took that long to find a home for all of us at a time of housing shortages and kickbacks to apartment managers.

Berendo Street is my friends' street, learning English, playing kick-the-can, buying ice cream bars from the Good Humor man and warm glazed doughnuts from the Helms man! Don't take away this name, which means something that should remain in many people's memory, even a segment of that street should not change name! Religion should be expressed in spiritual endeavors.

EVELINE COHEN LEISNER
Los Angeles



Agence France-Press

Chun Doo Hwan

U.S. in Korea

■ Re "U.S. Role in Kwangju and Beyond," Commentary, Aug. 29:

The death sentence for former South Korean President Chun Doo Hwan, who as a general had bloodily seized power with tacit American endorsement and harshly ruled the South Korean people with open U.S. blessings, is being widely cheered by Koreans in general. Meanwhile, the South Korean government had to resort to extreme paramilitary operations to suppress the demonstrating students demanding the withdrawal of American forces and the conclusion of a peace agreement between North Korea and the U.S.

The growing unpopularity of the U.S. among South Koreans, except for the ruling elites, largely stems from the presence of U.S. soldiers who, while causing all sorts of nuisances, constitute a main hindrance to a peaceful reunification of the peninsula.

The U.S. should, before it becomes too late, devise a new formula in which the American forces in Korea are pulled out and yet the mainstay of its interest is secured.

One way of doing this would be the abrogation of the present defense treaty with South Korea in favor of a new international arrangement under which 1) a unified Korea with reduced military capabilities is realized, 2) the neutrality of unified Korea is guaranteed by the U.S., China, Russia and Japan, and 3) a peripheral region of the unified Korea is leased to the U.S. for its military use in order to meet the U.S. desire to play peacekeeping roles in East Asia.

Drunk Drivers
and Prop. 213

■ Your article describing the tragic death of the Guth family by a suspected drunken driver is a poignant reminder of how irresponsible and dangerous drinking and driving can be ("A Bitter Irony," Aug. 28). Unbelievably, some drunk drivers break the law and then believe they should also be entitled to compensation for their "pain and suffering."

Current law allows drunk drivers to sue law-abiding citizens for huge monetary awards in addition to being compensated for medical and out-of-pocket expenses after an accident—even in cases where they also caused the collision.

This November, voters will have an opportunity to put a stop to this abuse by voting for Proposition 213, sponsored by California Insurance Commissioner Chuck Quackenbush. Proposition 213 will thwart the efforts of these lawbreakers to get pain-and-suffering awards for their crimes, while still protecting their right to be compensated for medical and out-of-pocket expenses.

In 1995 alone, 1,343 people lost their lives to drunk drivers and another 36,961 suffered injuries in collisions involving drunk drivers. It is imperative that Californians not allow themselves to be victimized by drunk drivers.

LINDA OXENREIDER
California State Chair
Mothers Against Drunk Driving

Child Care

■ This letter is in response to Aug. 22 column by Caryl Rivers and Rosalind Barnett, who propose a national task force to provide more resources for day care because parents want "secure, good, affordable care for their children."

They reminded me of two custodians I knew in my former life as a teacher. Our day custodian also held down a part-time job at Disneyland so his wife could be at home with their children. Often he told me how happy he was to see the stability she provided in their lives. Our night custodian's wife baby-sat so she could be at home with their baby. He worried about the children she cared for, especially the ones that called him Daddy. These two men, earning slightly above minimum wage, managed to have the ultimate in secure, good child care—parents.

National task forces and state