

California Believe It, why Not!

by STEVE GREENBERG
(WITH APOLOGUES TO RIPLEY)

GARDENA, IN L.A. COUNTY, CALLS ITSELF THE "FREEWAY CITY." THERE ARE NO FREEWAYS IN GARDENA.

WELCOME TO GARDENA



FORMER LEGISLATOR **JOHN SCHWITZ** (THE U.S. NEEDS A MILITARY COUP) WAS AN ACTUAL CANDIDATE FOR PRESIDENT. NO, NO... OF THIS COUNTRY!



SAN FERNANDO ALSO IN L.A. COUNTY, CALLS ITSELF THE "MISSION CITY." SAN FERNANDO HAS NO MISSION. (Then again, many of us have no mission...)

THE **COIT TOWER** IS NOT CONSTRUCTED... OUT OF COIT AT ALL!



MEDFLY BIG AS A MAN!

THE MAN IS LEFTY McQUIMBLY OF VISALIA, WHO STANDS .185 INCHES TALL.

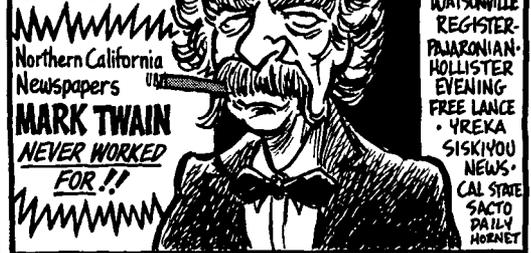
NEITHER PANORAMA CITY NOR PALM CITY NOR HARBOR CITY NOR UNIVERSITY CITY IS A CITY.

OUT OF 25,000,000 CALIFORNIANS...

875,624	KNOW WE HAVE A STATE SONG.
46,915	KNOW IT ISN'T "CALIFORNIA, HERE I COME."
9,378	KNOW IT IS "I LOVE YOU, CALIFORNIA."
123	CAN ACTUALLY SING IT.
9	PEOPLE EVEN CARE.

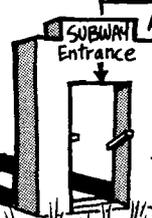
WHY DIDN'T ANY OF THE "49er" GOLD PROSPECTORS GO SEARCHING FOR THE FATHER LODE?

PENINSULA TIMES TRIBUNE • BERKELEY BARB THE SUTTERTOWN NEWS • EASTBAY TODAY • B.A.M. PEBBLE BEACH TRIBUNE • DEL NORTE TRIPLICATE THE POINT REYES LIGHT • ALAMEDA TIMES-STAR MANTECA BULLETIN • THE PACIFIC SUN STANFORD DAILY CONTRA COSTA TIMES • WATSONVILLE REGISTER • PAJARONIAN • HOLLISTER EVENING FREE LANCE • YREKA SISKIYOU NEWS • CAL STATE SACTO DAILY HORNET



MARK TWAIN NEVER WORKED FOR!!

Believe it or not, there's a Ripley, Calif.



A SUBWAY TERMINAL BUILDING HAS STOOD IN DOWNTOWN LOS ANGELES FOR DECADES EVEN THOUGH L.A. NEVER HAS HAD A REAL SUBWAY!

ONE OF RANCHO GERALD THE MAIN MIRAGE FORD ROADS IN IS DRIVE.

IT IS POSSIBLE TO GO THROUGH THE DOWNTOWN OF CALIFORNIA'S FOURTH LARGEST CITY AND NOT KNOW IT...



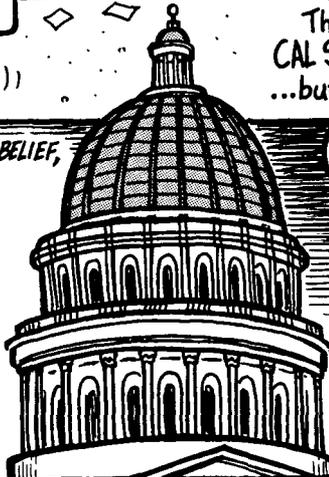
AMONG THE AREAS THAT HAD "CITY MAGAZINES" ARE FRESNO, LONG BEACH, BAKERSFIELD, MONTEREY, PENINSULA (below S.F.), SOUTH BAY (below L.A.), WESTLAKE VILLAGE, SAN JOSE, SANTA BARBARA, SANTA CRUZ, and TORRANCE (!) ALSO THE SAN FERNANDO VALLEY ONCE HAD, YA' KNOW, LIKE TWO VALLEY MAGS LIKE I AM SO SURE, TOTALLY.

There actually is a CAL STATE DOMINGUEZ HILLS ...but nobody seems to know why.

CONTRARY TO POPULAR BELIEF,

RONALD REAGAN

WAS NOT THE FIRST ACTOR TO SERVE AS GOVERNOR OF CALIFORNIA!

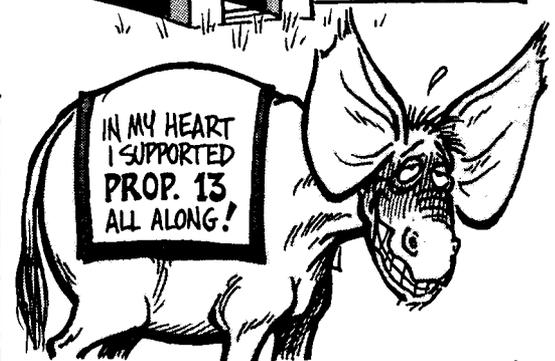


I'LL NEVER RAISE TAXES.

YOU CAN TRUST ME.

I HAVE THE INTERESTS OF ALL CALIFORNIANS AT HEART.

MOST OF THEM WERE.



DONKEY IN THE SHAPE OF AN ELEPHANT!

(SEEN IN SACRAMENTO SHORTLY AFTER PASSAGE OF THE JARVIS-GANN PROPERTY TAX INITIATIVE.)

(JUST TRY TO FIND REDWOODS IN REDWOOD CITY.)



LA JOLLA IS A JEWEL OF A MISSPELLING.

MIDWAY CITY Orange County, 15 MIDWAY BETWEEN
 LOMPOC and EL CENTRO!
 CAMP PENDLETON and U.C.L.A.!
 SIMI VALLEY and VISTA!
 INGLEWOOD and SAN JUAN CAPISTRANO!
 TIJUANA and GRAPEVINE!

AVALON and UPLAND!
 FILLMORE and ESCONDIDO!
 MOUNT PALOMAR and POINT MUGU!
 LEBEC and CHULA VISTA!
 U.S.C. and DANA POINT!
 EL TORO and DOMINGUEZ HILLS!
 ...and isn't even a city!



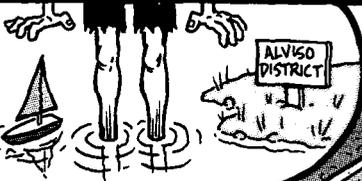
IF EVERY MAN, WOMAN,
 AND CHILD IN
 MENDOCINO COUNTY
 SUDDENLY AND SIMULTANEOUSLY
GAVE UP
FINGERNAIL TRIMMING,

...it would probably be the only
 event in the state that Time and
 Newsweek would bother mentioning.



ANOTHER CALIFORNIA
 WEIRDO STORY,
 CHIEF!

SAN JOSE
 HAS A PORT.



LOWEST POINT
 IN CALIFORNIA:
 DEATH VALLEY, 282
 FEET BELOW SEA LEVEL.
 HIGHEST POINT:
 PROBABLY THE L.A.
 COLISEUM DURING A
 ROCK CONCERT.

LOS ANGELES
 HAS A RIVER.

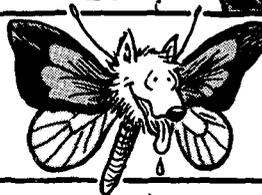
SPURRED ON BY GERTRUDE STEIN'S SARCASTIC
 "THERE'S NO THERE, THERE" COMMENT,

J.M. SMITH SPENT
36 YEARS SEARCHING
OAKLAND TO PROVE THAT
 THERE IS A "THERE"
 THERE!

UNFORTUNATELY, HE DIED
 BEFORE HE TOLD ANYONE
 WHERE IT WAS.



THE OFFICIAL
 STATE INSECT IS
 THE CALIFORNIA
 DOG-FACED
 BUTTERFLY.



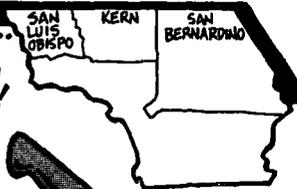
(ALSO KNOWN
 AS THE
 -AHEM-
 "FLYING
 PANSY".)



THE **BANK OF AMERICA**
 USED TO BE THE BANK OF ITALY.



NEVER MIND THE TEHACHAPIS...
 FOR THOSE WHO WANT TO SPLIT THE
 STATE INTO NORTH AND SOUTH, A NEARLY
 STRAIGHT LINE ALREADY EXISTS...!



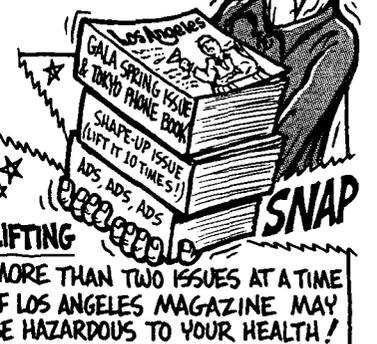
**WHY DOESN'T ANYBODY
 EVER NOTICE THE
 SAN ANDREAS VIRTUES?**

**MOST CALIFORNIA GRIZZLIES
 ARE PROPORTIONATELY LARGER!**

**LONG BEFORE
 IT HAD CARS,
 FACTORIES OR
 REFINERIES**
 Los Angeles had smog.



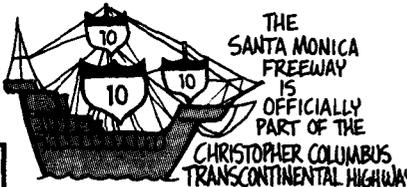
PEOPLE HAVE BEEN KNOWN TO
 HAVE SPENT YEARS AT THE
HOOVER INSTITUTION
 AT STANFORD
 UNIVERSITY...
 and not learn
 a thing about
 vacuum cleaners!



10 1/2 MILE
 GAP AHEAD
 There used to be a
RICHARD NIXON FREEWAY
 but that name was
 (expletive) deleted...

IF YOU THINK L.A.'S "SHOESTRING"
 CONNECTION BETWEEN ITS
 HARBOR AND THE REST OF
 THE CITY LOOKS SILLY...

MARIPOSA
 COUNTY ONCE COMPRISED
 A QUARTER OF THE STATE!



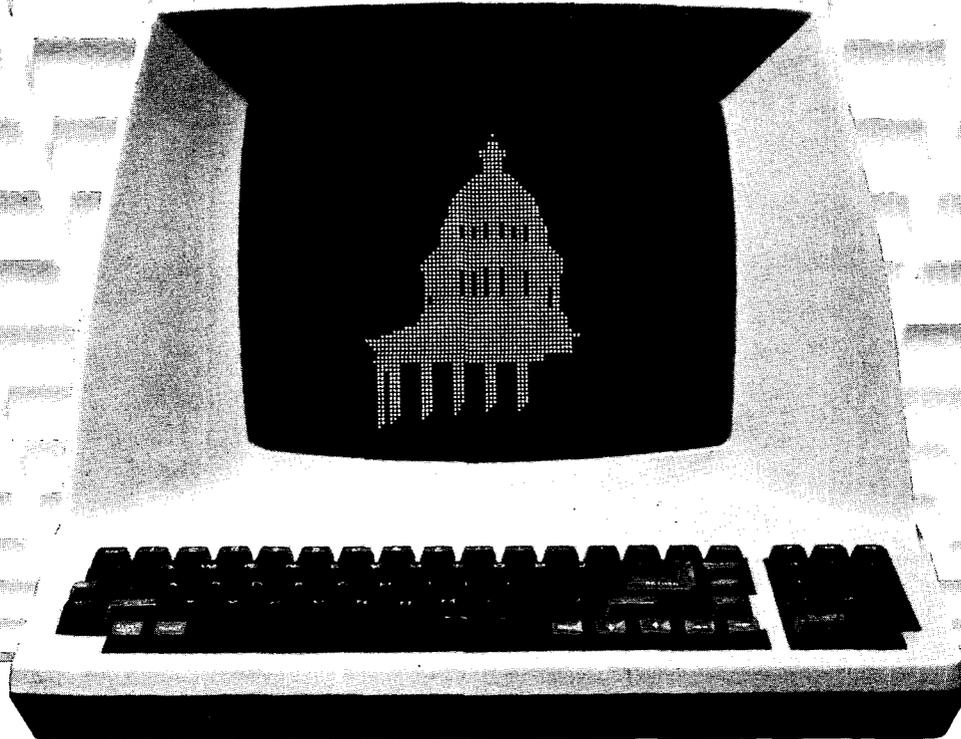
IN LANCASTER,
 BOTH EAST-WEST AND
 NORTH-SOUTH RUNNING
 STREETS HAVE "EAST" AND
 "WEST" DESIGNATIONS!

...CONSIDER THE LINK BETWEEN DOWN-
 TOWN AND SOUTH SAN DIEGO IS
 AROUND SIX
 MILES LONG,
 10th MILE WIDE
 ...and
 UNDERWATER.



Believe It, why Not...
 GOVERNOR JERRY BROWN.

Information is Power

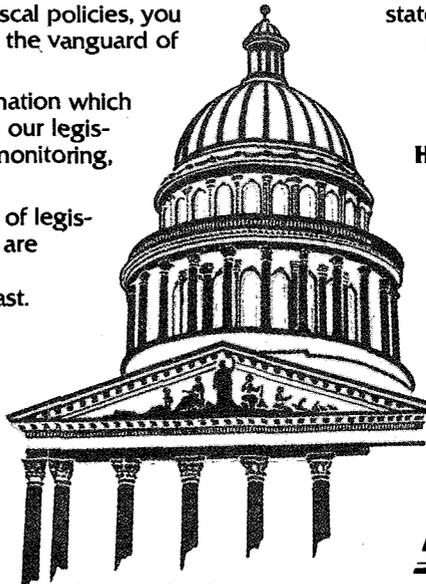


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Roberti and company laboring to improve Senate's image



By MARTIN SMITH

In 1980, soon after David Roberti won the post of Senate president pro tem, he was surprised by an interviewer who asked him why he seemed always to walk close to a wall. Roberti replied that he hadn't known that he did. In fact, though, his short, portly figure had long been a familiar and amusing sight as he traversed state Capitol corridors.

Hugging a wall, and wearing a bemused expression, he would stroll along, considering the day's legislative problems. His head would incline even further toward the wall, almost as though he were making an effort to be absorbed into it. His appearance, in brief, was not that of a formidable and dynamic political leader. He looked more as though he were trying to hide.

Roberti doesn't wall-walk anymore. Breaking the habit was one of his first achievements after becoming president pro tem. But another problem seems to have taken its place: He is walking in the shadow of his counterpart in the Assembly, Speaker Willie Brown. Brown the trendy, Brown the witty, Brown the spellbinder. In short, Brown the dazzling sort of political leader that Roberti never was and — barring a mid-life miracle — never will be. Such a trial.

Actually, the problem is not new, nor is it Roberti's alone. Even before there was an Assembly speaker named Brown, state senators were suffering an inferiority complex because of their brethren in the Assembly. The ailment goes back to the 1960s when Jesse Unruh vitalized the lower house by giving it an independent staff. With it,

Martin Smith is the political editor for McClatchy Newspapers.

lawmakers could gather information independently of lobbyists and governors, and could develop innovative ideas. Ever since, the Assembly has been perceived by many as the main arena for legislative action, and the Senate has suffered its sense of inferiority.

Thus, Roberti and his colleagues have been working mightily over the past 30 months to give the upper house a new stature and the sort of public image that they think it needs: that of competence, efficiency and a fountain of good ideas. Top staffers have been added. There's a new chief in the office of research. Roberti himself has two public relations specialists — one for newspapers, the other for television. Clearly, something new has been created, but it may not be exactly what the senators had in mind.

To the extent that Californians outside the Capital City pay close attention to what's happening at the seat of state government, Democrat Roberti and his party colleagues have emerged as heavy-handed and inept bullies, trying to block the earnest efforts of the new governor, George Deukmejian, to set his policies in place. They are perceived as fighting him at nearly every turn and denying him not only one of his important appointees (Carol Hallett as director of the Parks and Recreation Department) but the very home in which he wished to live (the new governor's mansion). Although that last decision has been rescinded, the Senate's overall reputation remains.

The smartest thing

Meanwhile, Speaker Brown sails on, invariably perceived as master of the situation. His policy of cooperation with Deukmejian is said to be the smartest thing that Democratic legislators can do right now. Lacking the two-thirds majority needed to enact Democratic programs over an assured gubernatorial veto, they have decided to let the