

## Letters To The Editor

### ABCs At NTC

I want to tell you what I would like to make out of the Naval Training Center. My idea is one big school starting with preschool all the way through college. This school could be known for its "role models." What I mean by that is today, in practically every public school in San Diego there are problems with graffiti, gangs and drugs. And none of these schools have adults students to be role models to the young students, and I think that's the problem.

I think college students are responsible and mature enough to set good examples for kids to follow. After all, college students go to school because they want to, and the kids would be influenced by them. I also think that this school will be a safer school for kids because there would be more adults on campus to teach them the right from wrong things to do at school. I hope you will consider my idea.

**Melissa Ryan, age 12  
Point Loma**

7/11/96 Beacon

### A Chance To Excel

The NTC Reuse Planning Committee has labored for three years, and with much fanfare has delivered a ... blivet. The City Council, acting as they usually do with tough decisions, backed up five yards and punted. And the mayor closed public comment, after receiving a little too much of it.

We have the opportunity to take the priceless community resource of the Naval Training Center and to create the next Balboa Park. Opportunities like this come along once every 100 years, this is our 100 year chance to excel. Instead our planners and the too usual collection of single issue activists have recom-

mended a motley agglomeration of uses for NTC.

The Port District wants an airplane parking lot for overnight parking. No imagination nor grace there. They don't even have a plan for the airport, they just want it. Airlines can park their planes in LA, and hop down here first thing in the morning to pick up passengers. We use LA to warehouse everything else, they can do the jets too.

The public safety folks want a training academy, "the Quantico of the West." Gag me with a spoon! Talk about the inmates running the asylum.

The homeless activists want something called transitional housing. Not sure what this is, but it sounds like the latest euphemism for a homeless shelter.

When you compare the suggested uses to the world class reality of Balboa Park, it really brings it home. Let's stop this committee process, as it cannot but produce the lowest common denominator. Let's open the issue in a competition, open to any bidder. The only rules are that a single unitary use must be proposed, and it must be profit making for the community (and the profit need not be strictly monetary). Let's invite people like Disney's Imagineers or Christo, hear what they have to propose.

We don't need to rush into this thing. Some visionaries from our past created things in San Diego that inspire for generations. Can we not find a vision that will bless our descendents?

**Jim Dodd  
Ocean Beach**