

We're still allowed such 'celebration'?

Shame on The Desert Sun for the offensive cartoon that appeared on July Fourth.

It showed a young girl skipping along, writing "Pursuit of Happiness" using a sparkler. A child using a sparkler! What a terrible idea. We're not even allowed to possess one, they're so dangerous.

And look, there's an American flag on her shirt! This is now a symbol of an oppressive society and may make people feel uncomfortable ... shoe companies won't even put it on their sneakers any more.

To make it even worse, she's writing in cursive! Many schools don't teach cursive handwriting today, so think how excluded and hurt people must feel when they can't read the message.

And the message she's writing is the worst thing of all: "Pursuit of happiness!" What if people pursue happiness, but don't achieve it? With all of the "rights" being discovered today (free health care, free college, and so on), the Constitution must surely contain the right to "free happiness." Why else would this be called "the land of the free?"

So, you can see how an apparently innocent cartoon can be so wrong, taken in today's context. I trust you'll be more careful in the future.

Chuck Sullivan, La Quinta

This is significant to the world

The Palm Springs Preservation Foundation has advocated for the preservation and restoration of The Town & Country Center for 10 years. I am in support like many of us are in the community for the Center to be saved and restored.

This is a remarkable piece of architecture by the famed architects Paul R. Williams and A. Quincy Jones. The buildings should be saved not only for their important place location wise and culturally in the history in the central core, but also as an important restorable example of Williams and Jones work.

Far too often we have lost these important buildings which are a part of the historic fabric of the community and place us as a city with major historic architectural significance in not only California but the world.

Let's all work together to continue the legacy of important architecture in the desert.

Carol LeFluffy, Los Angeles

Town & Country Center preservation

I support including Palm Springs' historic Town & Country Center in the 1090 claims settlement with the goal of preserving the Town & Country Center in its original form.

The Town & Country Center stands as one of the best examples of international-style architecture in Southern California and an early "mixed-use" development, noteworthy for its pedestrian-friendly courtyard.

Designed by internationally-renowned architects, most of the structures were built from 1946 to 1955, including examples by A. Quincy Jones and Paul R. Williams, two prominent Los Angeles architects, as well as local architects Donald Wexler, Richard Harrison, Albert Frey and John Porter Clark.

Paul R. Williams is historically important as the AIA's first African-American architect (1923) and first African-American AIA Fellow (1957).

A. Quincy Jones FAIA was dean of USC School of Architecture, and known for innovative, modernist buildings and urban planning that pioneered the use of green design.

The Town & Country Center is a rare and worthy piece of history and creative collaboration to have in Palm Springs — so as a community, let's celebrate our visionary past and make this our opportunity to preserve this modernist treasure.

Mimi Smith, Los Angeles and Palm Springs

A case for the T& CC

As an architect, preservationist, fulltime resident and avid hiker/walker, I have a good idea of what makes Palm Springs shine.

It's our sense of place — the history, the land and the people who come here to play and live.

As the City considers and negotiates various land settlement options, the time is right to consider how to best provide our public with access and use of prime spaces.

THE HISTORY: The Town & Country Center could be the “missing link” to our downtown — that piece that very literally connects our two main roads, Palm Canyon and Indian Canyon drives. Necessary to the success of this development is the strongest new inventive architectural entrance and invitation to Town & Country from Palm Canyon Drive.

THE PEOPLE: As we dig

up roads and re-route traffic on Indian Canyon Drive, we can build a strong pedestrian axis and designated bike lane. This is surely doable — given the 6 lanes of traffic/parking on that current thoroughfare. Does each council member know this is possible? It's the right thing to do, for now and for the future.

THE LAND: We have plenty of land available for development on our valley floor. Please reconsider the development of the wild lands threatened by the proposed Boulders and Crescendo proposals. Preservation of these lands would give the Council a lasting legacy known for generations to come!

Robin Abrahams, Palm Springs

Saving Palm Springs' charm

I have been following the Grit Development settlement. I feel that the Town & Country Center is an important property to our community.

By the city receiving the property, the city would be in the position to sell to the property to a preservation-minded developer.

We discovered Palm Springs several years ago and got caught up in the magic and charm of Palm Springs.

By continuing to preserve these kinds of properties, Palm Springs will be able to continue the charm.

Julie McAvoy, Palm Springs

La Quinta, consider this idea

Re: “La Quinta, let's move to voting within district,” July 6 Your Turn column by Robert Sylk I am all for a redistricting of La Quinta. We need more representation of all La Quinta.

William Cain, La Quinta