

# Opinion

## Who Owns our Community Center?

GRF continues to demonstrate that they have lost touch with reality. They are proposing to ban residents from the second floor of the administration building, a building that was purchased by GRF with residents' money in December 2001.

GRF's proposal is an act of arrogance and stupidity. It is a classic example of "not letting sleeping dogs lie". Residents, who heretofore had not thought about or questioned PCM's occupancy of the administration building or PCM's right to be there are now asking questions. Does PCM pay rent? If so, how much rent do they pay and to whom do they pay it? What are the terms of the rental agreement? Did GRF make a "deal" with PCM to permit them to occupy the building rent-free in return for a reduction in the management fee? If so, that amount should be revealed so residents might know the true amount of PCM's management fee.

It is puzzling that after more than 7 years of peaceful and uneventful occupancy of our administration building by PCM, "some residents", according to GRF, "have taken 'menacing and frightening' actions, entered offices when occupants weren't there, opened drawers and gone through papers in offices, shouted and threatened staff, and caused other security problems".

If this charge by GRF is true, residents need to cease and desist this inexcusable behavior immediately. Residents, however, believe that GRF's charges are a gross misrepresentation of the facts and are being used as an excuse to limit further the rights and privileges of our 18,000 residents who have legitimate, and sometimes urgent, business with our managing agent.

There is a certain irony here. Informed residents will say that it is GRF who is committing these inexcusable acts against residents. Residents who attend GRF Board and Committee Meetings will testify to hearing "shouts and threats" at residents by GRF Directors that are "menacing and frightening" to many of the elderly. If GRF Directors were completely honest they would admit that most of the "security problems" are provoked by insulting and inexcusable behavior by one of their Directors, to wit, the infamous "pompous ass" name-

## Silencing the Opposition Who Benefits from the Silence?

The efforts to silence opposition to plans and actions of PCM, the Mutuals, and GRF continue unabated. The Directors, who supposedly control and direct the affairs of the corporations, are "advised" by the General Manager, given research reports prepared by "staff", and rarely, if ever, have been known to differ with the recommendations of PCM. The techniques utilized to keep the directors passive and conforming are the so-called "confidentiality" rule, the misuse of "executive sessions" by special interpretation of the terms which permit discussion of a particular subject in a closed session, limitation of the time allotted to a director for discussion of a particular item, enlarged interpretation of the corresponding section of the governing law contrary to the intention of the legislature, and now abusive treatment of members who appear before committees or boards to express their views on subjects of concern. Some of the directors express their desire for transparency while before the public, but then funnel as much information as possible into the "confidential" category, to be discussed only behind closed doors. The limitations thus imposed on the

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### Who Owns our Community Center (cont'd)

calling by Erwin Stuller of a resident. Incredibly, at a GRF Security and Community Access Committee Meeting one resident was actually threatened with arrest when she attempted to exercise her first amendment rights to speak.

Finally, PCM knew when they moved into the "Community Center" that they were being paid to provide management services to 18,000 members of Laguna Woods Village. If PCM is unwilling or unable to continue to provide these services, they should move to another location. In the meantime, let's put this issue in perspective, and see if we can't all just get along together.