

Happy New Year!

The Club wishes you
A Very Happy New Year!
May the new year
bring you happiness
and prosperity.

The Club
Your City. Your Club.



LETTERS to the Editor

WRITE TO US TODAY!

Send your letters by email to
talkback@cityemployeesclub.com or conventionally:
The Club, World Trade Center, 350 S. Figueroa St.,
Suite 700, Los Angeles, CA 90071

Zoo Vendors Detract From Experience

Can someone tell me why those cheeesy vendors are allowed at the Zoo? I went there a month ago and was surprised to see a pop-up tent next to the Merr Cats with a disinterested kid (not a City employee; I asked) inside selling Kettle Corn. Oh, and then there's some mini-rollercoaster ride just past the entrance that only detracts from the beautiful surroundings. Maybe I'm just being old-fashioned, but it was plain embarrassing. These are definitely not fixtures you would find at a world-class zoo, or, am I just crazy? Anyone out there agree?

— Sam Watts, Rec and Parks

Ticket Guy: Right On With Magic Mountain

Magic Mountain was groooooovy! All nine of the kids had a good time (got on my nerves) but had a good time. By the time we left they were so tired we could not stand up (me included). So to make it short and sweet, we can't wait till next year.

— Tasha Muldrew, LAFD

Kudos to Bev Haro for Knowing Her Club Stuff

I want to personally thank Club Counselor Beverly Haro for taking the time to come to our location and make her insightful presentation. Her mannerism is very professional and informative. Her service helps to better our lives. We appreciate her expertise. I hope that she will be our representative for a long time.

— Joey Johnson, Asst. Supervisor, West Los Angeles Field Groups

When You Swim With Shreks, You Must Sit Through Previews

I know this is really silly but it just makes me so angry. I bought the Shrek 2 DVD and sat down with the kids to watch it. Naturally they plug a couple of the studio's other movies (Madagascar and some other animated film), which was okay the first time we watched it. Later in the week, the kids wanted to watch it again. (For those of you who have kids you'll know what I'm talking about). No problem, I just popped in the DVD and away we went.

The previews for Madagascar starting playing, so I just pushed fast forward, since I really didn't want to see a seemingly annoyed and indifferent Ben Stiller talk about his movie again.....but the preview kept playing. I thought that I must not have pushed down on the FF button hard enough. I pushed again, and again, and again yet I couldn't get out of the preview. I was getting furious! I was being forced to watch the preview and will always be forced to watch the preview every time I want to see Shrek 2! It kind of makes me never want to see Shrek 2 again, let alone the Madagascar movie. Give me my old VCR back where I had complete control!

— Jimmy Tomlin, Club Member

Voting in Nov. Election Left Him Feeling Puzzled

There was voter fraud going on at the USC poll location. They "ran out" of ballots. Now this means that people who are not registered are voting, which is illegal.

— David Jiles, Street Services

She Doesn't Like the U.S. Wealth Imbalance

It's true that the rich are becoming richer and the poor are becoming poorer. In terms of net worth (what we own minus what we owe), the top 1 percent of the U.S. population now owns more than the bottom 90 percent.

There should be rewards for working hard and being innovative, but being ten times as wealthy would be sufficient incentive. A million times as wealthy is definitely not normal, in my opinion.

I don't want to get too political by suggesting that government policies are contributing to the imbalance and that we could reduce the imbalance and at the same time raise much needed tax revenues to improve education and otherwise benefit the less wealthy, so I won't.

— Julie Monroe, DWP

Rec and Parks Gets High-Five For Launching New Website

Wow! Have any of you seen the new Rec and Parks Website? It must have just been re-done and it looks awesome! If you want to check it out yourself go to www.recandparks.com. Nice job Rec and Parks! Hey Alive, maybe you should do a story on the new website, that might encourage other departments to follow suit.

Just a thought.

— Jimmy Tomlin, Club Member

Jimmy: We'll look into it. Thanks for the suggestion!—Ed.

Just Who Was Left Holding The Bag at LAX Airport?

I just heard that more drama occurred at LAX. An anti-terrorism official was stopped after screeners found an undeclared .38 caliber pistol in his bag. Quite ironic.

— Rick Myers, Club Member

Chief Bratton Should Keep Out of the Mayoral Race

I would say that Chief Bratton needs to keep out of the mayoral race and work on the City crime problem. However, he claims that even though Mayor Hahn is a supporter of hiring more officers to police the communities, Hahn has been faced with political obstacles to make this happen. My question is, then why support Hahn if he is not getting the support needed from City Council to get more officers? Maybe Hahn is not the right person to make the required policy changes and Bratton needs to support a mayoral candidate who will have this kind of pull.

— Roger Loewes, DWP

Turner Fields Five Solutions To What Is Ailing Baseball

Things Major League Baseball needs to do to get out of this downward spiral:

1. Reinstate Pete Rose. Come on, you're gonna let Darryl Strawberry into the Hall of Fame, but you won't let Pete in? All Pete did was bet on baseball. Betting on baseball is legal outside of the MLB.
2. Fire Bud Selig.
3. Blacklist Barry's "record."
4. Open or reopen an investigation into Mark McGwire's record.
5. Two words: Salary cap! The owners should

take in the majority of the money and then some! This is why they are called "owners." These baseball babies act like they're making minimum wage.

— Turner Johnson, DWP

No Smudging the Fact: She Likes This Mascara

A few days ago at Nordstrom's I was looking for a mascara that didn't smudge. I mentioned to the gal working in the beauty products section that I had tried many brands that promised not to smudge and they all did. The gal highly recommended Bline Kiss Me mascara. It is a little pricey (\$24), but I've wasted much more than that on mascaras that don't live up to their promises.

I tried it last night and after about four hours it wasn't smudging. Great, I thought, but let's try the true test and sleep with it on and see if I wake up with raccoon eyes in the morning. This morning there were no smudges at all. I saw maybe two tiny flakes that brushed off easily, but it basically looked as good as when I first applied it.

Actually I am stunned. I am so used to buying products that make promises and they never work. This stuff is fantastic and will be the one I use from now on. Not quite as thick as some I've used, but it defines the lash well. You won't get Tammy Faye Baker lashes with this mascara. Thanks to Nordstrom's personnel!

— Mable Smith, Rec and Parks

Trying to Find Metro Station Has Made Him Blue, Indeed

I have been trying to find the correct address of the Slauson station. The MTA Website says that it is 5885 Randolph St. When you run this address through the trip planner, your journey starts in Commerce. Both Thomas Guide and USPS do not place this address near the Metro Blue Line.

I have contacted the MTA Webmaster, MTA customer service, and the MTA library. The answer is always the same, even though I explain that it is erroneous.

I guess nobody wants to take the trouble to find out what the real address is. It is not like you can go to the station and look at the door. Any suggestions on who to contact next?

If you think that this is a trivial matter, just try inputting 7th Street/Metro Center into the Travel Planner. You will get nowhere! You have to use the address of the station, 660 S Figueroa St.

— Joe Ventura, City Clerk's Office

Hi Joe: If you type the Slauson Station address into www.mapquest.com, the site places the station right on the rail line between Bell and Bell Gardens, just south of Slauson. The actual address is: 5885 Randolph St., Los Angeles. Hope that helps. (And congrats on using public transportation.)—Ed.

Here's the Title

In our November issue, we published some of the winning entries in the RLACEI's annual poetry contest. We inadvertently left off the title to the poem written by Evelyn Akerman. So sorry about that, Evelyn!

So here's Evelyn's lovely poem reprinted.

The title: *To a Soldier*



Evelyn Akerman

To a Soldier

I HAD A TALK WITH GOD TONIGHT
AND I ASKED HIM IF I WAS RIGHT
IN WANTING YOU AND LOVING YOU
AND WANTING YOU TO LOVE ME TOO.
HE SAID IF I WAS SINCERE
IN THE LOVE I SOUGHT FROM YOU, MY DEAR
THAT I SHOULD SEEK IT,
SO YOU SEE
I'M GLAD WE TALKED..... GOD AND ME.

I ASKED GOD IF HE WOULD SEE
THAT YOU WERE SAVED JUST FOR ME
HE SAID THAT HE WOULD DO HIS BEST
SO HE'S WATCHING YOU, I GUESS
BUT HE WON'T TELL ME IF YOU ERR
AND IF HE DID, I WOULDN'T CARE
AS YOU'RE AS SWEET AS YOU CAN BE
AND WE LOVE YOU..... GOD AND ME.

IN OUR TALK.....GOD AND ME
DECIDED I WAS MEANT TO BE
JUST FOR YOU AND YOU ALONE
SO ALL MY OTHER CARES HAVE FLOWN
AND NOW IN LOVELY THOUGHTS I DWELL
WISHING FROM A WISHING WELL
THAT YOU WERE HERE OR I WAS THERE
ALL ALONE--JUST WE THREE
WONDERFUL YOU, AND GOD AND ME.

LOVE
V
E Evelyn Akerman

Correction