

LETTERS to the Editor

Dangling USC Before Hahn and Parks Is Like Dangling a Carrot

I attended the USC National Championship event for the football team Jan. 21 to share in the celebration. I was disappointed that the celebration was traversed by our local political figures like Mayor Hahn and Councilmember Bernard Parks. Wasn't this event supposed to be about the football players? Instead Mayor Hahn shows up disrespectfully with a T-shirt and an unscripted, unprepared speech. Some of the people around me remarked in wonder who Hahn was ... not even knowing that this was our Mayor.

If that didn't take away from the celebration, Councilman Parks made some remarks and was dressed in his dark-pressed suit. He said all the right things a public figure should say until he called USC Coach Pete Carroll ... Pete Carrot countless times. It was horrible.

— Roger Lison, DWP

She Wonders If Anyone Has Grocery Shopping in the Bag

Does anybody grocery shop without plastic bags? It's easy to bring your own canvas bag to carry stuff home in. But all the little plastic bags you use to put produce in: What alternatives are there, and do the grocery stores mind? I assume any bags you substitute have to be clear and as light as plastic, since they weigh the produce. When did plastic arrive... not that long ago, eh? How did people shop before the proliferation of plastic?

— Melanie Bermudez, Building and Safety

State of Virginia Is Jockeying For Fewer Underwear Outlaws

The Virginia House of Delegates passed a bill authorizing a \$50 fine for anyone who displays his or her underpants in a "lewd or indecent manner." Virginians who wear their pants so low their underwear shows may want to think about investing in a stronger belt ... really, what's keeping those sagging pants up? Not only that, I bet the plumbers in Virginia are packing their tools and leaving the state.

— Roy Sanchez, CAO

She Wants to See Some Different LAPD Crime Statistics From Chief

It is good to know that the Chief Bratton has goals he has set for 2005. I would like to know what the current statistics are for:

- Officer-involved homicides (minorities)
- Officer-involved homicides (majorities)
- Police brutality (minorities)
- Police brutality (majorities).

Next, I would like to know what his goals are to change and reduce the number of deaths and assaults on citizens. This is very important because as a City worker, the service that another Department provides

is still a reflection upon me. As the second largest City in America, we should be able to do something to change the attitudes of some temperamental officers. As an employee, I should have some belief in our system that does not seem to be working. Workers are a reflection of their leadership, and it is time that he steps up and makes some changes.

— Marviana Jones, Sanitation

Will the New Secretary of State Increase Voting Machine Use?

The Republicans are weak in California, despite Governor Schwarzenegger (a.k.a. the Gropenator). This drives them mad, as it impedes their plan for the destruction of the country. Using their black box voting machines, they're gaining power in the swing states, but how can they get the boxes into California?

Well, they need to get rid of the Secretary of State (a Democrat), whose main function is election oversight. Now, Shelley might be asinine, and maybe the investigations are all warranted, but isn't it interesting that [whomever] the Gropenator is sure to appoint will surely facilitate the spread of the privately owned and operated voting machines throughout the state?

— Melanie Bermudez, Building and Safety



Private Information Breach Ought to Be Fully Punished

I understand that on Feb. 16, law enforcement officials in Los Angeles announced that a suspect has pleaded guilty to identity theft in connection with the ChoicePoint incident. More than 150,000 consumers have been affected. The extent of how they will be affected remains to be seen, unfortunately. The most deplorable thing about it is that nothing can be done to avoid it except to look for the symptoms of identity theft on your credit history reports. The people involved like the suspect that pleaded guilty should be made an example to everyone who even contemplates committing this hideous crime. The federal government needs to keep a close eye on the events of this case and deny companies to operate as a data holding and transferring firm of personal information. Otherwise, millions if not billions of U.S. dollars will be lost by consumers and companies to identity theft and its consequences.

— G. Tillman, DOT

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Cecilia Camacho,
Club Claims Administrator

The Word
on the Street

You probably won't get to meet Club Claims Administrator Cecilia Camacho very often ... until you really need her. That's when her service shines. So, to assure you that you are in good hands, from time to time Alive! will reprint letters commending the service given by Cecilia and her excellent staff. —Ed.

Excellent! I was especially impressed with the level of professionalism and care – and genuine concern – exhibited by your representative Cecilia Camacho. She is outstanding in all areas, especially Public Relations. Now that I am widowed, I realize how important it is to have top-notch professionals available to meet my specific needs, at affordable prices. I am sure I will also come to appreciate the savings my new Club membership will afford me. Many thanks for being there when I was at my lowest.

— Sara Parker
February 2005.

Excellent! Your inclusion of the book The Fall of Freddie the Leaf was very touching and consoling. Your staff was very kind and considerate. They are easy to reach by phone and very helpful. The insurance payment was processed quickly. Special thanks and praise for Cecilia Camacho.

— Nuala Cullen
January 2005

I can only say that the service I have received was excellent. Any question I asked was answered professionally and with much concern. As a manager I can say whomever is in charge can be very proud at the staff. In Nov. 2003 I was diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis. I had signed up for long-term disability coverage in the early 1980s. I wasn't sure how the premiums worked, so I called the Club. I was entitled to collect monies for this policy, but only because one of your workers went through the policy and helped me out. This has truly helped us to get through our financial crisis.

— Lynn Wickliffe
December 2004

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