

LETTERS

To the Editor

Young Love, Seaweed Memories

Greetings, fair weather friends at *Alive!*
Well, it's been quite a long time since I've written in. I've had my hip replaced and didn't feel much like typing at the ole computer. It's nice to see your paper taking off like a rocket – and I know a few things about taking off like a rocket; like that time I got a wink from Mr. Benson the local grocer ...

Well, enough of that. The reason I'm corresponding now is that your wonderful story on the [Cabrillo] Aquarium tickled me pink. It was at the tide pools that my boyfriend proposed to me. No, I didn't marry him; Jack and I, well, we were only 10 and on a school field trip. Besides, a piece of seaweed wrapped around my finger hardly constituted a ring.

In all seriousness folks, thanks for the memories. Keep up the wonderful work.

- Mary Wilkins, Retired, Library

WPAAA Appreciates How *Alive!* Told Group's Stories

On behalf of the Water and Power African American Association, I would like to commend the artistic talents of David Jamgotchian of JJLA Associates for the outstanding design and production of *Alive!* I especially want to thank him for the several articles about the WPAAA events and activities featured in the February 2006 edition (Black History Month). It was a pleasure to work with David and to experience his creative mind as we conceptualized my vision of WPAAA's achievements and announcements. The articles meant a great deal to the more than 300 WPAAA members. We sincerely appreciate President and CEO John Hawkins, Managing Editor Robert Larios and Editor John Burnes for their support of all City employees.

Thanks for all that you do.

- Marie Y. Lemelle, DWP, WPAAA President

He Used Current *Alive!* to Find New Things in City

A question for you guys. Is this the same newspaper that I used to get 10 years ago? I could have sworn it had a different name. Anyhow, I really like what you've done to improve it; keep up the great work. (I'm taking the kids to the Cabrillo Aquarium this week – never knew it existed!)

- M. Feawhing, Club Member

The City Employees Club of Los Angeles began more than 77 years ago, and over the years has produced a number of publications under the title Alive. But great input and interest from Club Members like you have made this Alive! the crown jewel of communications for City employees. We couldn't be more proud of it, and thanks for asking.— Ed.

Here Comes the Fudge, Here Comes the Fudge

Dear Chef Larios: First, are you the same guy who used to come out and talk about the Club at our website? If so, hello! You may not remember me but I signed up after the second time you visited us down here in Hyperion. Glad I did too; thank you for knocking some sense into my head.

But, that's not why I'm writing. The reason I'm contacting you is that I am looking for the ultimate brownie recipe. I've made many batches from scratch but never seem to get it right. I like them real fudgy and moist. Can you help me out? Thanks, Chef Larios!

- Michael Bentner, Proud Club Member

Michael, we've forwarded your request to Chef Larios. Look for a personal response from him, plus a nice and fudgy brownie recipe in his cooking column, soon.— Ed.

She Scored Points With Chef Larios' Super Bowl Recipes

Thank you for the Super Bowl recipes. I needed to bring something to my office's Super Bowl potluck on Thursday [before the big game], and your recipes looked pretty quick and easy to do.

- Yvonne Liu, Personnel

Animal Services Thanks Liz For Explaining Club Benefits

On behalf of the Department of Animal Services and the training division, I wish to thank you for your time to explain to our new employees the City of Los Angeles City Employee Club benefits. Through your efforts, employees will be better informed of City benefits.

- Wendell Bowers, Animal Services

Wendell, Club Counselor Liz Montes sends a hearty "you're welcome" for meeting and talking with your employees. "It was really my pleasure," she says. Our Club Counselors are happy to visit with any City department and explain the many strong benefits of being a Club Member. To find your Counselor, just look on the back cover of every issue.— Ed.

To His Respected Citizens List, He Adds *Alive!* Editorial Staff

I have known many well respected individuals in my career with the City (former Mayors Tom Bradley, Richard Riordan and Jim Hahn) and Former Councilmembers John Ferraro, Nate Holden, Bernson, Marvin Braude and Cindy Miscikowski. I would like to add to my list of well-respected individuals the author of the article about the Cabrillo Aquarium.

- Ken Moody, ITA

Club Office Depot Discount Made a Believer Out of Him

Hello. I was a disbeliever of the Office Depot discount program that is offered to Club Members, but I went and I bought about \$180 of stuff and when they swiped my credit card, the cashier screen went down to about \$120. There was a line of people, and they were all amazed. The cashier could not believe it as well as the people in line behind me. They were looking at me as though I was the president of the store. I was Mr. VIP while checking out, and it felt good. The store manager even offered to carry my bags to my car. Although she was a looker, my wife would have killed me if I accepted. Thanks for great experience!

- Tim Parker, Rec and Parks

Has Mayor Discovered Great Benefits of Club Membership?

I was reading your latest issue of *Alive!*, and I enjoyed reading about the Cabrillo Museum. That was a first-class feature, and the cover photo was gorgeous. While gazing at the photo, I noticed that on the top right corner you say that you have 17,000 members. I'm just curious to know if Mayor Villaraigosa is one of those members. I couldn't see why he wouldn't be or any of the high officials like City Councilmembers because this newspaper would serve as a peep into the work life of their City workers. Maybe I'm wrong.

- Cathy James, General Services

Cathy, Mayor Villaraigosa is not yet a Club Member (notice how we said, not yet.) Councilmembers Tom LaBonge, Janice Hahn, Jan Perry and Greig Smith are Club Members.— Ed.

She Enjoys the Tall, Dark And Handsome Men of City

I work right here in the City Hall East Building. The excitement of my new job and the coolness of seeing new faces at work have mellowed out since I've transferred in from the Valley a few months ago. It had been getting so difficult staying focused with writing my reports or typing interoffice memos. Even my lunch break has become restless – there are only so many classic Italian subs or grilled Chicken Star sandwiches you can eat, you know?

But, I've noticed some new and handsome faces with the General Services police roaming around the halls and the lunch lines at Quizno's. These men are such cuties, especially with the officers that have the short haircuts and the dark hair. Did I say I liked tall, dark and handsome men in uniform? I just love them! Their shiny badges and friendly smiles are so hot. Honestly, my adorable discovery has helped with my productivity at my office – seriously, I'm the first to come in the morning now and the last to leave in the afternoon. My work life is starting to liven up! Thanks guys!

- Stacey Johnson, CAO

WRITE TO US TODAY!

Send your letters by email to talkback@cityemployeesclub.com or conventionally:

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QUESTION

of the Month

Our Club Counselors are all over the City, every day, serving our Club Members. While we're out, we'll be asking City employees a fun question. Keep your eyes open... you never know when we'll be asking you what you think!

ASK A Question:

What is your lucky charm?"



"I am my lucky charm!"

- Kiyoko Clemons, PSR, LAPD, Club Member



"My daughter is my luck charm."

- George Ceja, Rec and Parks, 4 years.



"My car."

- Devin Lewis, Rec and Parks, 2 months.



"My daughter, Dafny."

- Miguel Gonzalez, Rec and Parks, 2 months.



"My three daughters, Stephanie, Jessica and Christina."

- Manny Canales, Rec and Parks, 3 years.



"Are you kidding? My gorgeous hair!"

- Tina Brammel, Rec and Parks, 1 year.



"The gold tooth in the back of my mouth."

- Roy Gerrard, LAFD, 3 years.



"I don't believe in luck. It's been all talent and skill."

- Rachel Neil, LAPD, 2 years.



"My pension account!"

- Joe Hilburton, City Clerk, 23 years.



"The St. Florian coin. St. Florian is the patron saint of firefighters."
Apparatus Operator John Ziola, Apparatus Operator, LAFD, FS 4, 19 years.