{ *Who are the people you see every day?* }

No. 17 in a series.

People We See

in downtown Los Angeles.

Meet Derrick Robinson.

AGE: "I'm 46."

BIRTHPLACE: "Los Angeles."

FAMILY: One brother, one sister.

EDUCATION: "High School."

LAST JOB: "I worked at General Label years ago."

RELIGION: "Christian."

FAVORITE FOOD: "Any food but spicy."

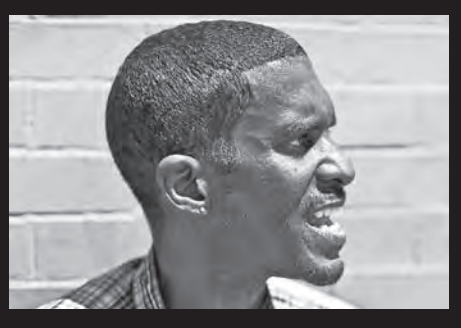
FAVORITE MOVIE: *"The Departed."*

FAVORITE ACTOR: "Matt Damon."

Normally, *Alive!* asks many more questions for this feature. Sadly, Derrick explained to us that his vocal cords were paralyzed and that it was very difficult for him to talk. He also explained to us that he has had more than 10 operations since he was 25. Derrick lifted his shirt so we could see the scars; it was a humbling experience. As a side note, it was stifling hot, and Derrick was sitting in the direct sunlight. There was also a considerable amount of human waste in the immediate area, which added to what was already a sad picture. All this, and just three blocks from City Hall.

The Club gave Derrick plenty of water, some T-shirts and $20.

This interview took place April 22 at the corner of Crocker and 3rd street.



{ In this monthly feature, Club CEO John Hawkins and Director of Member Services Angel Gomez introduce you to people you see every day, but you might not know who they are. The Club reminds you that we all have names and stories to tell. }

Newsbrief

TIRE'S A SEMIFINALIST:

A demonstration project by the City that turns biosolids into clean energy has been named as a semifinalist for the 2009 Award for Innovations in American Government. The award is presented annually by the Ash Institute for Democratic Governance and Innovation at the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University.

The Terminal Island Renewable Energy, or TIRE, project is the nation's first aimed at producing green energy from a renewable bio-resource. The resource is biosolids - the organic materials remaining after treatment of domestic sewage at a wastewater treatment facility.

The TIRE project is the nation's first and only full scale application of deep well injection technology to convert biosolids into green power while simultaneously sequestering greenhouse gases. The earth's high temperature biodegrades organic compounds to generate methane gas to produce renewable energy.

At full capacity in 2012, the renewable energy project in San Pedro is expected to produce about 3,500 kilowatts of renewable power by biosolids conversion. The green energy produced would equal the amount of energy required to power nearly 3,000 homes annually.

"Terminal Island is setting the green standard for innovation, clean energy and renewable power nationwide," said Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa, announcing the selection.

"The Innovations in American Government recognition is a testament to this City's unyielding commitment to sustainability, unparalleled investment in alternative energy sources, and unmatched strategy to make LA the cleanest and greenest big city in America."

The Ash Institute's announcement recognizes the TIRE project as one of the top 50 programs representing the best practices in government innovation on City, county, tribal, state and federal levels.

The TIRE system is expected to cost $3 million to $4 million to build and will come on line in phases. City engineers plan that Phase I of the project will achieve 50 tons per day of biosolids injection by 2009. That will be increased to 400 tons per day capacity in Phase III by 2011.The TIRE project is slated for completion in 2012.

TIRE project adds to the option available to the City for beneficial reuse of biosolids and will save over a $1.6 million annually over the cost of the current practice of trucking the material to Kern County where it is spread on agricultural lands.

More than 25 trucks per day currently load and transport LA biosolids away for land application. The TIRE project will eliminate more than 1,500 miles of heavy truck traffic per day with the pollutants, emissions, odors, and dust these shipments create.

Another benefit - the project will utilize brine produced by Terminal Island Water Reclamation Plant, eliminating its discharge into the Santa Monica Bay.

In addition, TIRE will permanently sequester 82,000 tons of carbon dioxide over the five-year demonstration period. Those emissions would otherwise be released to the atmosphere from the land application of a similar amount of bio-solids.

The City calculates that the permanent sequestration of 82,000 tons of CO2 is equivalent to taking 3,200 automobiles off the streets of Los Angeles for five years.