

LETTERS To the Editor

Tell us what you think! talkback@cityemployeesclub.com

LETTER OF THE MONTH

Story on Wind Farm Just Blew Away These Readers

I really enjoyed your comprehensive story on the DWP wind farm [*The Winds of Change*, cover story, May]. It's really encouraging to see our City stepping up to the plate in such a massive way. I hope there are more projects like this to come!

— Angelique Thompson

So do we, Angelique. We'll keep you informed about other projects the DWP is working on in the months and years to come. — Ed.

I was just curious if the windmill on the front page of last month's *Alive!* was really that big, or was that photographic trickery. Just curious because if that windmill is really as big as it looks that's just amazing and unbelievably impressive. I loved the article, and it was nice to see our boss, David Nahai, sharing his vision of the future.

Hey, we may be in a tight financial situation,



but Los Angeles is still the greatest City on planet Earth!

— Jimmy Duran, DWP

Was that real? That must be the biggest propeller I have ever seen on the first page of the newspaper. I know -- you cropped the photo. Yeah, that's what you did. I showed the newspaper to some of my neighbors, and they were not only floored at the size of these things, but were impressed that DWP employees like Richard Whites and Louis Ting help keep them going.

— Tim Lloyd, General Services

Hi Jimmy and Tim, there was no photographic "trickery" involved in the cover shot, except to say that the two subjects, Louis Ting and Richard Whites, were standing on top of a hill. The wind turbine behind them was in a valley of sorts, but the turbine stands approximately 250 feet in the air. —Ed.

uranium the size of a softball. The units can be linked in series to provide energy to meet demands. The power is provided by turning water to steam, which then turns a steam turbine linked to a generator. The hot water loop can be used to provide thermal energy to heat or using a chiller, chill homes similar to co-generation facilities used at Sea World Incorporated. Projected cost of each unit is \$25 million. Buy-back time for the nuclear batteries is as follows: Average cost for energy per household: \$100 per month times 20,000 households equals \$2 million per month revenue per unit. Linking 200 units times \$2 million per unit equals \$4 billion monthly.

The nuclear units can easily fit inside the two buildings at Hyperion Treatment Plant and access existing power grid lines without having to build roads, file environmental impact studies, etc. Should power be needed to supply high speed elevated trains (MAGLEVs) these units would be ideal.

The nuclear fuel once spent can be recycled to power pacemakers, clocks, vehicles, etc. The amount of available power could easily be used to provide energy to desalinate the ocean to provide a safe, reliable, and dependable source of fresh water for Southern California as well.

— Robert James Lavelle,
Public Works/Sanitation

Union Shop Steward Says Stop Blaming City Workers

I find it amazing that some residents of L.A. continue to place the blame for the City's financial woes on the unions. Allow me to set the record straight.

In the latest contract that was negotiated by the Coalition of City Unions, we bargained in good faith, fairly, and came away with a contract that a majority of members found acceptable. If you look at this five-year contract, and the two prior three-year contracts, City workers have averaged a pay increase of 3.1 percent a year, hardly enough to cause the budget crisis the City faces today.

If people want to place blame, start at the top, not the bottom. The coalition has come to the table with many cost-saving ideas that will save the City of L.A. millions of dollars, plus save City workers their jobs.

— Brian Hollenbaugh, DWP

The preceding letter first appeared in the Los Angeles Daily News in April. It was in response to a previous letter in the Daily News, which suggested that City Employees should take a pay cut. Brian Hollenbaugh is a shop steward for SEIU Local 721.

Here's One Idea to Raise Revenues at Hyperion Plant

The City of Los Angeles currently owns two buildings, C-8 and C-11 within the Hyperion Treatment Plant adjacent to LAX. There is a company, Hyperion Power Generation, that is manufacturing miniature nuclear power plants the size of a large hot tub and capable of providing power for 20,000 homes for seven to 10 years before having to replace the non-weapons-grade

Club's Discounted Night at Magic Mountain Was Magic

I don't know if you guys know this, but it seems like everyone in the world is jealous that Club Members could get Magic Mountain private party tickets for just \$15 [last month]. That was a real bargain! Let's have another soon so I can hold my head up high once again!

— Miran Beacon, DWP

QUESTION of the Month

— Collected by Rachael Brecher, Club Store Rep



The Ticket Guy and Rachael at the Club Store ask Club Members fun questions when they visit to purchase tickets or great Club apparel and gifts. So, stop by and join in the fun!

What was the most memorable moment with your dad?



"Watching the 'Thrilla in Manila,' the Ali-Frazier fight in the Philippines."

— Alfonso Dominguez, Public Works, 24 years of City service

"Fishing with Dad in Alaska, for my high school graduation present."

— Darrell Kemp, Transportation, 13 years of City service



"Going to the Dodgers game for Father's Day."

— Jessica Cepeda, LAPD, 2 years of City service

"Taking me to the park and playing sports."

— Jiberto Verduzco, Public Works, 3 years of City service



"Going to work with my father."

— Jim Littleton, Public Works, 20 years of City service

"When Dad use to take pictures of me in parades."

— Josue Saluero, Housing, 11 years of City service



"Sunday trips to small towns."

— Luis Aguilar, Convention Center, 6 years of City service

"Going to Disneyworld in Florida."

— Maria Estevez, General Services, 2 years of City service



"Going flying every weekend in Dad's small airplane."

— Robert Ferreira, Public Works

"I just appreciated Dad taking the time to be with me despite his being tired from work."

— Robert Galan, Public Works, 8 years of City service



Something to  Think About

"The reward of a thing well done is to have done it."

— Ralph Waldo Emerson

A reminder from L.A. City's Quality and Productivity Commission:
Always do your best!