

LETTERS To the Editor

Tell us what you think! talkback@cityemployeesclub.com

LETTER OF THE MONTH

Retiree Runner Ken Is One Swift Man

Humans are the animal world's best distance runners. We can run long distances relatively fast without overheating. Once humans start running, it only takes a bit more energy for us to run faster.

Other animals, on the other hand, expend a lot more energy as they speed up, particularly when they switch from a trot to a gallop, which most animals cannot maintain over long distances.

— Ken Kochakji, Retired, Rec and Parks

Hi Ken, interesting information! Keep on running! —Ed.



Robert Has Thought Thru More Budget Crunch Ideas

Note: From time to time, Robert Lavelle, Public Works, submits various ideas for saving the City money. Here are a couple more, condensed. —Ed.

SOLUTION ONE: I have personally suggested a solution to increase revenues for the City of Los Angeles while saving the taxpayers 66 percent on their monthly energy costs for electricity and heating or chilling homes. The suggestion involved the use of a newly invented nuclear battery, Hyperion Power Units (HPU's) using non-weapons grade uranium the size of a softball to heat water to 800 degrees passing through a steam turbine linked to a generator to provide 25 megawatts of power, enough to light 20,000 homes and recover the thermal energy to heat or chill homes and building using a heat loop. The units can be linked to one another to meet any demands for power and are transportable on the back of a truck to the site. Each unit is projected to cost \$25 million, but I have contacted the company, and they might be willing to enter into a lease agreement to provide the units immediately to gain revenue the City of Los Angeles in order to pay each unit off in approximately three years. The City's current deficit would quickly become a surplus using the following calculations:

- Month average cost for power per household: \$100.
- Hyperion Power Units output: 25 megawatts or 20,000 homes.

CALCULATIONS:

- 20,000 homes times \$100 per home equals \$2 million per month revenue to the City.

SOLUTION TWO: Using reclaimed water and biosolids to grow renewable alternative synthetic fuels and lubricants (instead of the current practice of growing alfalfa and feed crops) would return revenue to the City while simultaneously reducing the cost of fuel at the pump. The City reports that at its farm "Green Acres" in Kern County, the farmer has been able to triple the yield on land once considered unfarmable due to high concentrations of alkali. The City could grow renewable alternative synthetic fuel crops, process, refine, distribute, and recycle used synthetic fuel at various syn-fuel stations for less than \$2 per gallon. The City fleet of Police, Fire and Operations and Maintenance vehicles could use the biofuels, saving taxpayers millions of dollars annually. Revenue from sales of bio-fuels and lubricant to the public, the airlines, and ships would bring in millions more in revenue as well.

As a 25-year City employee, I have never heard a City councilman or mayor come up with solutions to raise revenue while decreasing costs for energy or fuel at the pump.

I should be the mayor of the City of Los Angeles for these solutions.

— Robert James Lavelle, Public Works

Club Is Going to the Dogs ... And Soda and Nachos

Hey *Alive!* I am getting pumped up and ready to go to the Dodger game Oct. 4. I should never again think of the Club as just a place to get tickets -- you guys are *the* place! I still can't get over the fact that I was able to get tickets for \$15 each, and they're throwing in all-I-can-eat Dodger dogs, nachos, peanuts and soda. At that price, at least half the stadium should be filled with City Employees.

— Lou Terrel, General Services

With Questions of its Fate, Scooter Mania Hits Club Store

I was wondering what you guys did with that scooter that sits at the Club Store window. Is that the Store Manager's scooter and he's just trying to show off? Did you give it away? What gives? In any case, it's a really nice bike. I see people on them all the time here in Downtown LA. I think they get about 70 miles per gallon on gas mileage.

— Rita Houton, Retired City Employee

Hi Rita: Ticket Guy, on a scooter? Thanks, that made our day! No, the scooter was part of a great promotion co-sponsored by the Club and its home and auto insurance partner, United Agencies. See the story on page 18. —Ed.

Club Is a Good Sport When It Comes to Service

So the Club now does sports for City Employees? Wow. You guys are doing it all, huh? That's great! I was wondering if the Sports Dude could look into opening up soccer, volleyball and golf leagues. That would be super fun!

— Tina Thompson, Rec and Parks

Hi Tina, it's up to the Club Members! We've had great participation with softball, and now we're starting a men's basketball league. We'll judge the enthusiasm for that, and go from there. —Ed.

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 your favorite Halloween costume growing up?



"Bobby Light."

— Timothy Ochoa, General Services, 1 year of City service



"Batman."

— Romeo Prado, General Services, 1 year of City service



"Pippi Longstocking and Freddy Kreuger."

— Michael Delcid and guest, Housing, 7 years of City service



"The Unabomber."

— Oscar Ruiz, General Services, 11 years of City service



"A shower."

— Nora Verdesoto, DWP, 28 years of City service



"G.I. Joe."

— Christopher Delaney, LAPD, 7 years of City service



"A werewolf."

— Joseph Perez, Building and Safety, 3 years of City service



"A witch."

— Elvira Bailon, LAPD, 20 years of City service



"Superman."

— Ricardo Molato, Transportation, 18 years of City service



"An Indian."

— Mary Contreras, General Services, 16 years of City service

Something to  Think About

"There are many ways of going forward, but only one way of standing still."

— Franklin D. Roosevelt

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