

## Desert Sun

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### Your voice: Letters to the editor for Thursday, August 4, 2005

*Readers*

*The Desert Sun*

Desert Hot Springs City Council: Not my vote

If the Desert Hot Springs City Council perhaps agreed to pay City Manager Jerry Hanson a \$600,000 yearly salary instead of the reported \$322,000 yearly salary, then perhaps the city's lack of internal financial controls may have been addressed and resolved during his employment with the city ("Hanson contract: 'A fairly rich deal,'" July 30).

The recent audit (Jerry Hansen's report card), as reported by The Desert Sun, pointed out several deficiencies with City Hall: no accounting and procedures manual, no administrative policy to deal with certain issues, etc. The list goes on and on.

What is even more impressive is that a few of these elected officials have the nerve to seek re-election this fall.

Joel Hach

Desert Hot Springs

Palm Springs development: Slanted and enchanted

Two recent articles have me concerned:

The first one was on the merits of the Town and Country Center ("Center barrier to progress," July 24). In that article, a "random" selection of people was asked to voice its opinion of the structure, which has been neglected for years by its current owner.

It would have been nice and journalistically responsible if The Desert Sun had spoken to some more knowledgeable and involved citizens of Palm Springs instead of slanting the article by having uninformed passersby comment on it.

The second article was on the city's plans to provide a no-interest loan to do a Cirque du Soleil-type show in the Desert Fashion Plaza ("Council gives nod to two high-dollar loans," July 22). Aside from the obvious ongoing financial problems this city is having, one wonders if this is not just another ploy to delay any real progress in redeveloping the mall. Every year or so, some grand announcement is made about the current owners plans to begin redoing the mall, but nothing ever comes of it. The mall has been empty for close to a decade now. Let's give this mall to a developer who will redevelop it.

Courtney Newman

Palm Springs

Businesses on Highway 111: Think landscaping

If the Casuelas Cafe does have a makeover ("New, 2-story building planned for Casuelas Cafe, other businesses," July 20), I suggest that whole strip along the south side of Highway 111 get a landscaping makeover.

As traffic always seems to crawl in that area, drivers are greeted with nothing but hundreds of parked cars to look at, very similar to seven blocks of a used car lot and most unbecoming for the image of one the most prosperous cities of the desert.