

SLO LIFE

MAGAZINE

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San Luis Obispo City Council member Dan Carpenter is quoted in the **Q&A** feature of your June/ July issue as saying that his "colleagues rubber stamp everything. This is what drives me crazy." He goes on to call the City Manager "the sixth council member" and claim that the City Manager controls everyone on the Council, except, of course, for him. His untrue and insulting accusations are not only disrespectful to his fellow Council members and to city staff, but they are also very revealing. They demonstrate his often oppositional approach to decision making. He minimizes the time he puts into council duties and for long stretches of time refuses to meet with city staff. Rather than fully engaging on the issues, he often just votes "against" people. His demeanor on the dais is also revealing. At times, he spends entire council meetings in dark and brooding silence. At other times, he launches into angry attacks against members of the public who have testified, or against other council members, or against city staff. People may or may not agree with Mr. Carpenter's self description as "crazy." Either way, blaming his fellow council members for driving him "crazy" is just plain wrong. And, his accusations against other council members are just plain false. We each thoroughly research the issues and think for ourselves. We make decisions based on the facts, the law, city policy and public input. Then, we deliberate and vote for what we decide would be best for the community as a whole. We do not rubber stamp anyone, or vote on the basis of ideology, or cater to special interests, or vote "against" staff or other council members. His comments in your magazine beg the question: is that true for Dan Carpenter as well?

— JAN MARX, MAYOR SAN LUIS OBISPO
