



## Wandering & Wondering

John Maybury

### GOODWILL BEDBUGS

Has anyone asked the manager of the Goodwill store at Linda Mar Shopping Center if it is impacted by the bedbug problem detected at a regional Goodwill warehouse this week, which led to a shutdown?

### KARMA COMES TO PASS

A very cool thing happened to me last week while driving on the freeway, one of those experiences you always wish for but rarely get to see. As I was coming off Highway 92 and merging onto Interstate 280 northbound, the driver behind me swerved, passed on the right, and cut right in front of me really fast without signaling. Wisely (I think), I let it go: no gestures, no eye contact, no reaction. But seconds later, a California Highway Patrol cruiser came out of nowhere, passed me, and went after the rude guy. Two exits north, the CHP car locked onto the speeder, hit the flashing lights, and pulled him over. As I drove by, I mentally high-fived the cop. How satisfying is that!

### UNMARKED COP CAR BUSTS SPEEDER

Cynthia Luce recently saw a dark blue sedan chase and pull over a speeder on Highway 1. The only reason she knew it was a police car was the flashing lights in the rear window and the two uniformed cops who jumped out of the unmarked car (probably an undercover vehicle pressed into service). This was evidently part of the San Mateo County mutual-aid operation that allows other jurisdictions to help Pacifica police with traffic enforcement. Drivers, beware! Slow down, signal lane changes, obey the law, and don't be a jerk (see previous item).

### DUI FOR DUMMIES

Alan Wald thinks it was odd for Pacifica police to announce a DUI sobriety checkpoint July 26 at an undisclosed location. But Alan found this in the law books: "It seemed contradictory to me that police would announce the checkpoint but conceal the location, so I did a little homework. A California Supreme Court decision in 1987 (Ingersoll vs. Palmer) requires that 'police conducting a lawful sobriety checkpoint must provide advance notice of the roadblock to the public, although they are not required to disclose its specific location. Publicity both reduces the intrusiveness of the stop and increases the deterrent effect of the roadblock...' But the most interesting part of the court's ruling for police conducting legal DUI checkpoints is this: 'Motorists who seek to avoid a roadblock may not be stopped and detained merely because they attempted to avoid the roadblock.' In other words, you are allowed to make a legal U-turn when you're, say, 50 feet away from entering a DUI checkpoint. Try it and see." (For the record, I do not recommend U-turns on Highway 1. You could get a ticket for crossing the double yellow line.)

### COOLER COOLER

Scott McKellar found a simple way to avoid soggy, water-logged food in his cooler: Set an aluminum turkey roasting pan on top of the ice, then put all food items in the pan, high and dry.

### EIGHTIES WAR SCARE

Laurie Frater writes: "Petrov wasn't the only one to not press the big red button! Your piece (July 31) reminded me of something that happened immediately before I came to the USA, so must have been in the first or second week of November 1979. The morning news on the radio (no morning TV in the U.K. back then!) and newspapers throughout Europe had very large headlines proclaiming the fact that North America's monitoring station(s) had detected incoming missiles, that the U.S. and the Canadian Air Forces were in the air, the President and the Canadian P.M. had been wakened and were

on the way to bunkers, and that the countdown (30 minutes, minus?) had reached a quite advanced stage before it was all determined to be a false alarm. I remember calling a friend in Sausalito, who (to my surprise) knew absolutely nothing about it. She called me a day or two later to say that there had still been no news that she could find of it in the USA. (Before the Internet, too!) Not to be paranoid, but it's always made me wonder what else may have happened (or is happening?) about which we know absolutely nothing!"

### PACIFICA RESTAURANTS ROCK

It has been a good summer for Pacifica restaurants. First, Puerto 27 got a great write-up by San Francisco Chronicle "Datebook" food reviewer Michael Bauer. Then Nick's was very favorably featured in the Chronicle "96 Hours" section (reviews at [sfgate.com](http://sfgate.com) or [sfchronicle.com](http://sfchronicle.com)). The seafood and the scenery at both places are outstanding. "The absolute best fried chicken can be found at Ash's Vallemar Station on Sunday nights, but go early," says The Muncher. Guerrero's Taqueria is going into the JAC space in Fairmont Shopping Center. My business source says, "Again, \$10,000 a month in expenses before you make a profit. Good luck to them." Guerrero's original location behind the little red caboose at Vallemar Station remains open for business. Chris Fogel says Guerrero's makes hard-to-find chile relleno burritos.

### PACIFICA BLOGGERS MAKE NICE

Kathy Meeh writes: "Hi John: In your Pacifica Tribune column this week, thanks for mentioning the news and blogs, including 'to-the-right-of-Riptide' Fix Pacifica. In your honor, I reprinted a small portion of your column on Fix Pacifica today ([fixpacifica.blogspot.com](http://fixpacifica.blogspot.com)). Anyhow, thanks for mentioning all Pacifica news and blog sources (and your brief view of these)."

### INNER EDIROT

Peter Loeb spotted another example of spellcheckeritis: Seattle's KOMO ([komonews.com](http://komonews.com)) wrote "sorted history" (should be "sordid history") in an August 2 story about a city ban on offensive words. Remember: Never trust your spell-checker (computer or smartphone) to use the right word. All it can do is correct spelling, but it does not know the difference between sorted and sordid, among other things. Over-reliance on technology is leading to more accidents, both in grammar and transportation. We humans are still smarter than computers, but we need to stay sharp, whether it's in publishing or piloting.

### HIGHWAY WIDENING ALTERNATIVE

See how to make your traffic signals adapt to demand in specific conditions. Sign up for the webinar on August 15 to see how agencies across the U.S. use InSync adaptive traffic signals for specific traffic management applications. Dan Cook, project engineer at Rhythm Engineering, will show how InSync improves signalization in conditions that involve: crossing arterials; emergency vehicle or railroad preemption; shopping centers, events, and high-volume variations; freeway interchanges; flashing yellow arrows. You'll learn how to configure the InSync adaptive traffic signal system for each of these applications using CentralSync software, and hear the results from real-world deployments. Participate in live Q&A at the end. Join the webinar for this fascinating inside look at the traffic engineering concepts and built-in artificial intelligence that enable InSync to achieve award-winning results at intersections nationwide.  
Rhythm Engineering: [info@rhythmtraffic.com](mailto:info@rhythmtraffic.com)

### SWAMI SEZ

"A high school in Arkansas is letting teachers carry concealed weapons. So now when students want to ask a question, they raise both hands." (Conan O'Brien)

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