



Wandering & Wondering

John Maybury

GOOD SAMARITANS

I love reading about Good Samaritans and their heroic deeds. For instance, last week a motorist caught in slow traffic on a Georgia highway saw the driver ahead of him slump unconscious over the wheel and drift out of his lane. The quick-thinking hero stopped his car and ran up to the stricken driver's car, jumped in, and brought the car to a halt against a guardrail, saving the other man's life, and possibly the lives of others who might have been hit by the out-of-control car. Then in Santa Rosa, a salesman driving home heard on his police scanner about a hit-run accident, and with the suspect's description, tracked him down and called police, who came and arrested the bad guy.

I BEFORE E EXCEPT AFTER C? NOT!

"Neighbours, I cannot reiterate this sufficiently, much less in surfeit, if I say it eighty times: the heirs of the world will never be able to spell proficiently, even with the aid of caffeine, with the reigning educational agencies reinforcing, and decreeing that we monotheistically deity, this weirdest, most unscientific of fallacies. The counterfeit rule is foreign to the way so many words are spelled. The society of the human species, obeisant plebeian and heightenedsovereign alike, needs to change its zeitgeist, conscientiously weigh this rule's deficiencies and sound

the reveille, thus guaranteeing that someone seizes the reins and unveils a reinvented rule with all due efficiency. That's my dream anyway, and I'm not prone to false oneiromancies." (Keith Mercier)

SFO PHONE RIPOFF

Janice Taylor posted on Pacifica Riptide: "In July, my daughter (who has been living in Italy) arrived at SFO an hour early. Having no American change or cell phone coverage, she called me collect. I accepted the charges, which are usually a few dollars. This week I got a \$36 bill for that three-minute call. It seems that most of the telephones at SFO are not owned by AT&T but some private outfit, and billed by a company called Zero Plus Dialing, Inc. There are no notices that you are about to be charged an exorbitant rate for a simple call, which it bills as long distance from South San Francisco to Pacifica. When I complained, Zero Plus said it would credit me with \$4 as a courtesy since I did not realize they were bandits (my words). If this is legal, at least there should be some sample rates posted so people are aware of the outrageous rates. As you can imagine, I did not take this sitting down. So far I have filed complaints with the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), California Public Utilities Commission (PUC), the airport, Congresswoman Jackie Speier, the San Mateo County Times, the San Francisco Chronicle,

and 7 on Your Side. Even if I don't get the fee reduced, I hope I can do some damage with adverse publicity."

LIGHTER SIDE OF PACIFICA

On YouTube, look for the light-hearted, creative videos by Jean Bartlett and George Mauro, covering a variety of Pacifica businesses and local personalities, and going by the name of BartlettQuipFilms.

INNER EDITOR CLASSES

Your Inner Editor -- Copyediting and Proofreading Workshop: Do you have an eagle eye? Do you correct your relatives, friends, and colleagues when they mangle the English language? Did you inherit good-grammar genes? Are you a village wordsmith, giving English some tough love? This non-credit, three-hour class is about making a living as a copyeditor and proofreader. It offers career tips and lively discussion of the profession. The instructor (yours truly) is an experienced editor, writer, blogger, and newspaper columnist, working in the Bay Area since the days of typewriters and carbon paper. Get information and sign up for fall classes:

- September 17, Saturday afternoon, College of San Mateo, Renee Khoury, Community Education, 650-574-6149, visit communityed.smccd.edu or email communityed@smccd.edu
- September 20, Tuesday evening, City College of San Francisco at Fort Mason, Continuing Education, Kirk Stoller and Don Seyasu, 415-561-1840/1860, visit ccsf.edu/continued
- September 24, Saturday afternoon, De Anza College, Community Education, Michael Hegglund, 408-864-8817, visit communityeducation.fhda.edu
- October 1, Saturday afternoon, Las Positas College, Community Education, Frances DeNisco, 925-

424-1467, visit laspositascollege.edu/communityed or email commed@laspositascollege.edu

HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

Dan Underhill posted on Pacifica Riptide: "I attended the Healthy Communities Forum on August 18, which explored the idea of sustainability vis-a-vis environment, economy, and social equity, maintaining that all three are good for business in general. The forum's central question was: 'What would the top of the sustainability mountain look like in your/our community, and what steps, individually and collectively, do we need to take to get there?'

Forum organizers showed the film So Right—So Smart, featuring Ray Anderson, founder and CEO of Interface Corporation and author of the book Mid-Course Correction. I had previously seen Anderson in the film The Corporation by Achbar, Abbott & Bakan. This film So Right—So Smart provides a much deeper understanding of Anderson's story and of what governments and businesses might do to transform themselves into beingpart of the solution." The following books were displayed at the forum:

- 75 Green Businesses—You Can Start to Make Money & Make a Difference by Glen Croston, PhD
- Green Business by Amy K. Townsend
- Green Careers For Dummies by Carol McLelland, PhD
- Greening Your Business by Daniel Sitarz
- Doing What Matters by James M. Kiltz
- Companies on a Mission by Michael V. Russo
- Greening Your Small Business by Jennifer Kaplan
- The Plot to Save the Planet by Brian Dumaine
- The Green Collar Economy by Van Jones

- Climate Capitalism by L. Hunter Lovins & Boyd Cohen
- Green to Gold by Daniel C. Esty & Andrew S. Winston

SWAMI SEZ

"I was working on the proof of one of my poems all the morning, and took out a comma. In the afternoon I put it back again." (Oscar Wilde)

SITSEER

- Dog sense: thebeaglez.com
- Exercise outdoors for better results: berkeleywellnessalerts.com

MAYBURRITOVILLE

- Wandering and Wondering column: PacificaTribune.com, WanderingAndWondering.com, PacificaRiptide.com
- Meandering column: LomaPrieta.SierraClub.org (newsletter)
- Freelance copyediting: Goofbuster.com
- Blogs: PacificaRiptide.com, PacificaRiptide.com/inner_editor
- "Your Inner Editor" classes: email mayburrito@goofbuster.com



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