



# Wandering & Wondering

**John Maybury**

## **JAPAN DISASTER INFO**

If you are looking for information on the welfare of family and friends in Japan, please contact the State Department at 1-888-407-4747 or [travel.state.gov](http://travel.state.gov) or email [JapanEmergencyUSC@state.gov](mailto:JapanEmergencyUSC@state.gov). If you have concerns about a specific U.S. citizen in the tsunami zone outside of Japan, please email the State Department at [PacificTsunamiUSC@state.gov](mailto:PacificTsunamiUSC@state.gov). U.S. Forces in Japan report that all personnel have been accounted for, and there are no reports of injuries. The Department of Defense instructs that family members of Department of Defense personnel should call 1-800-342-9647 to inquire about their loved ones or contact the individual unit command directly for more specific information. If you

need information on a Japanese citizen, please contact the nearest Japanese Embassy (Washington, D.C., 202-238-6700) or Consulate. Contact information for foreign Embassies and Consulates in the United States is available at [travel.state.gov](http://travel.state.gov).

## **DO SCARS HEAL?**

In a San Francisco Chronicle story about the San Bruno disaster (March 9), the front-page and jump-page headlines refer to scars not healing. I emailed [corrections@sfchronicle.com](mailto:corrections@sfchronicle.com) that scars don't heal, only wounds do, but so far they have not printed my comment. In the meantime, I busted the goof on Bay Area Editors' Forum ([editorsforum.org](http://editorsforum.org)) and got this response from a fellow editor: "Well, John, going

back to my tech writing days in the medical arena, I can see that someone might take issue with your objection. While it is true that a scar forms as part of the wound healing process, it is also true that finding ways to heal scars is a priority for the medical profession. If you search in PubMed, for example, you'll find tons of research related to 'healing scars.'" Naturally, I am all for that. If they do find a way to heal scars, I will be the first to rejoice. I also got this response from another fellow forum editor: "I thought this phrase sounded familiar. Blame this one on Elton John and Bernie Taupin:

'Daniel, my brother, you are older than me. Do you still feel the pain of the scars that won't heal?' A 2002 Scientific American article on child abuse used the same phrase in the title, according to Google. It seems to have caught on, even if it's inaccurate." So, I guess it's a lost cause. Finally, a fellow editor NOT in our forum writes: "I think Bernie Taupin meant 'psychic' scars, not physical ones, hence that's accurate." Then a fourth editor jumped in and questioned the previous commenter's usage, joking that "psychic scars" could only have been inflicted by a mad medium. Now you have some idea

of why they say editors take sadistic pleasure in marking up other people's work.

## **IRISH EYES ARE SMILING**

Michael Mooney of Pacifica was featured in the San Francisco Chronicle Datebook (aka The Pink Section) on Sunday, March 13, in a special feature about the Bay Area Irish community. Mooney's life story and a photo of him at his Rockaway Quarry/Calera Creek victory garden are highlighted in the article.

## **SWAMI SEZ**

Thanks to loyal reader Jean Headley for reminding me that we haven't heard from Swami for a while. Swami has been wandering and wondering on a long trip of enlightenment, and now he is back with this juicy fruit of wisdom to share: "Study nature, love nature, stay close to nature. It will never fail you." (Frank Lloyd Wright)

## **MAYBURRITOVILLE**

Columnist: Pacifica Tribune, Loma Prieta (Sierra Club)  
Blogger: Pacifica Riptide  
Copyeditor: [goofbuster.com](http://goofbuster.com)  
Teacher: Inner Editor class  
Email: [mayburrito@goofbuster.com](mailto:mayburrito@goofbuster.com)

