

A GREAT CONVERGENCE

Linda Mar Beach has become a destination for whales, sharks, harbor seals, surfers, and kayakers this summer, turning into something almost cosmic: A Great Convergence. On Sunday morning, July 24, some 75 surfers skedaddled out of the water and dragged their surfboards onto the beach as a shark patrolled the cove and attacked a harbor seal. (If you're not terribly squeamish, photos of the seal carcass that washed up on the beach are posted on my Pacifica Riptide blog.) My fellow blogger Dan Stegink (Pacifica.city) was kayaking in the cove around the time of the shark attack and verified the incident. He also has felt the thrill of a humpback whale breaching right next to his watercraft. I asked Dan if he felt safe out there with sharks and whales all around him in the water. His answer cannot be printed here in a family newspaper, but you can take a look at his blog for pictures and stories. In the 19th century, Herman Melville wrote about New England whalers ("Moby Dick"), but modern-day Coastsiders are lucky to be able to see all the beautiful, bountiful marine life close to shore. Best of all, no harpoons, no whaling ships!

NOSTALGIA FOR OBAMA

Former KTVU newscaster Randy Shandobil (Shandobil Communications) wrote a great piece in the San Francisco Chronicle (July 24 "Insight" section) about feeling nostalgic for President Obama

even though he is still in office for another six months. Despite his doubts about certain presidential policies and practices, Shandobil cited Obama as a model of class, dignity, intelligence, integrity, and grace under pressure. This farewell tribute is well worth finding online and in the Chronicle/SFGate archives.

GOOD ADVICE

Advice columnist Dan Ariely (Wall Street Journal, AskAriely@wsj.com) says the best way to deliver bad news is sandwiched between two pieces of good news. He also agrees with a reader who says that someone touching your computer screen is more annoying and irritating than someone touching your arm – plus it leaves an oily smudge on your screen.

ETHICALLY CHALLENGED

A half-page newspaper ad for The Great Courses offers a series called “Becoming a Great Essayist” with the first lecture titled “Steal, Adopt, Adapt: Where Essays Begin.” Hmmm, kind of a shady introduction to the subject! Wouldn’t it have been more honorable to begin the course with a lecture on creativity and originality?

SLOW WALKER

“These days I walk slow. I'm stuck in low gear. Today while I was shuffling toward the grocery, another old slow walker came up parallel, so I asked him if we

should race. And he offered, 'We would probably both lose.'" (Scott McKellar)

UOYAKUTEI

Have you tried the new Japanese restaurant on Highway 1 in the former KFC/Boston Bill's/Prime Dip space? If so, I would like to hear your comments about the food, service, ambiance, etc.

SWAMI SEZ

"So if we lie to the government, it's a felony...but if they lie to us, it's politics." (Bill Murray)

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