



# Wandering & Wondering

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## LOCALS ONLY!

At the risk of sounding like a loca-chauvinist, I am wondering why foreign investors seem to be preying on Pacifica real estate. Japanese-owned 7-Eleven Inc. wants to add two more of its so-called convenience stores to the two already here, bringing with them more alcohol, tobacco, lottery tickets, and candy to a town that already has too many addiction issues. Canadian-owned Sonora Shores is ripping up a hillside open space to develop Harmony @ 1 multimillion-dollar luxury homes on Fassler Ridge, adding more burdens on city services for very little tax revenue in return. And now I hear that an Australian developer plans to build a resort hotel and apartments in Rockaway Quarry, which to me seems like the least beneficial use of that troubled property. Personally, I would much rather see that sorry bowl of land become a world-class amphitheater like Colorado's Red Rocks or Berkeley's Greek. As a former rock quarry, wouldn't Rockaway be an appropriate place for The Rolling Stones to perform their farewell concert!

## GOOD INVESTMENT

Subway sandwich franchise founder Fred DeLuca died recently of leukemia at age 67. He had started the business with a \$1,000 loan from a doctor friend, hoping to finance his own medical school education, but he never became a doctor, because his sandwich shop turned into a wildly successful chain, the largest restaurant business in the world by number of outlets. (Source: Wall Street Journal, September 16)

## NOT SHY AND RETIRING

I just took Amtrak back East to visit my folks in

Falls Church, Virginia. Their retirement home is in a tizzy over what to play on all the big-screen TVs in the workout room, so the residents compromised: CNN during daytime and Fox News at night. But when I went down to the fitness center one evening expecting to see a bunch of elderly Republicans pumping iron to the steady patter of Fox News, no one else was there. So unfortunately, I had to do my half-hour on the recumbent stationary bike suffering through the "fair and balanced" broadcast. Apparently, politics doesn't end when you retire.

## DAMN GPS!

I jumped on Caltrain the evening of September 13 to ride from San Jose to San Bruno. I settled in for the bumpy ride up the Peninsula. Suddenly, just before the California Avenue stop, we hit a car, with a loud crash and the sounds of grinding metal and flying rocks. The engineer slammed on the emergency brakes and we came to a halt. The conductor ran down the aisle asking if everyone was okay. We were all fine. Miraculously, the driver of the car had jumped out unhurt just before the train crushed her car. Palo Alto Online reported that she had followed her GPS instructions but she mistakenly turned onto the train tracks and got stuck on the rails. An hour later, a relief train came. Emergency crews set up a ramp so that all passengers could safely cross over to the relief train, then we continued on up the line to our destinations.

## MAYBURRITOVILLE

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