



Wandering & Wondering

John Maybury

CONTRACT COPS

A San Mateo County civil grand jury reports that three cities (Half Moon Bay, Millbrae, and San Carlos) like their new law enforcement officers: county sheriff's deputies. These three communities apparently enjoy economic and service benefits with the outsourcing arrangement. (See sanmateocourt.org/grandjury for the official findings.) Pacifica was offered this contractual service last year but turned it down. Before you fire off a letter to the editor about this, remember that our little old Pacifica is a different kettle of fish from the above-named cities. We are long, skinny, and disjointed -- and practically ungovernable. If you don't believe me, just ask City Hall! So sheriff's deputies might be appropriate for more conventional cities, but Pacificans seem to like having their own local police force, and things probably will stay that way for the time being here in Mayberry R.F.D.

GLOSSY

How did you like that slick city brochure about the proposed utility users' tax (UUT)? Apparently, it cost about 10 grand to produce and mail. I also read in one of the local blogs (mine!) that it was a generic piece used in at least one other community (Hercules, California). Hey, recycling and reuse is a good thing, right?

LOCAL BLOGOSPHERE

I encourage you to supplement your Pacifica Tribune reading by checking out the four blogs of the apocalypse: my baby Pacifica Riptide, the original social media in town, born in 2007; Fix Pacifica, Steve Sinai's and Kathy Meeh's to-the-right-of-Riptide site; Pacifica Patch, an AOL clone with deep corporate pock-ets; and Pacifica Index, the new kid on the block, Chris Fogel's meticulously researched watchdog blog that keeps a wary eye on all things at City Hall.

DRAT

Those ominous storm clouds that hung over Pacifica last week for a couple of days produced zero rainfall for our parched landscape, but when they finally drifted eastward, they dumped three inches of rain on the Sierra Nevada and Reno on July 25. Bummer. We sure could have used the rain here. Life and weather ain't fair.

TV NEWS ON TRIAL

KTVU Channel 2 has fired three senior producers after the station mistakenly aired a racist joke about the Korean pilots of the Asiana airliner that crashed July 6 at SFO. San Francisco Chronicle columnists Phillip Matier and Andrew Ross

commented July 24 on the firing: "Randy Shandobil, former KTVU political editor who left the station 2 1/2 years ago, because 'people were working harder and harder and feeling less secure about what was hitting the air,' said Wednesday the episode was emblematic of the pressure news reporters everywhere are under to get information out as quickly as possible. At Channel 2 and elsewhere, 'People are overtaxed and have more responsibility sometimes than they can handle. And sometimes, in situations like this, terrible mistakes happen that are bigger than one person. It's systemic.'"

ROCK ARTIST

Claudia Vilagi has been taking pictures of a man named Chris who balances piles of rocks in interesting ways on Linda Mar Beach. Locals and tourists gather to photograph the unusual displays. A couple of Claudia's photos are posted on Pacifica Riptide. She says another guy stacks rocks along Ballona Creek in Marina del Rey (Los Angeles County).

HOLD THE MAYO, REDUX

Last week I told you about a masseuse offering "mayofacial therapy" (supposed to be myofascial). Lisa Warns, who spotted this hilarious typo at the Foster City Jewish Community Center, now says: "I should have known -- there is a mayo facial. A friend found 'mayonnaise face mask' on ask.com. No thanks, I prefer chocolate! See "chocolate face mask" on ehow.com." Lisa adds, "And in case anyone asks what myofascial therapy is, here's the definition: deep tissue massage therapy that helps reduce pain, loosen adhesions and increase joint range of motion in specific areas."

THE DECADE THAT MADE US

I just finished watching the National Geographic Channel series "The 80s: The Decade That Made Us" (available online). Fascinating stuff. Take the story of Lieutenant Colonel Stanislav Petrov, the Soviet officer who "saved the world" by not launching nuclear missiles when his detection equipment sounded a false alarm. I had never heard of this incident. On the silly side, I also learned that David Hasselhoff (whose "Knight Rider" TV show made him a huge star in Europe) serenaded the crowds celebrating the fall of the Berlin Wall.

HISTORIC HOUSE FOR SALE: \$1

Down in Redwood City, a one-story Queen Anne structure at 321 Fuller Street is available for a dollar. Yes, you read that right: \$1 even. The buyer must remove and relocate the house (preferably but not mandatorily in Redwood City) at his/her own expense. Contact Adam Kates before August 16 at akates@mozartdev.com or 650-213-1120.

SWAMI SEZ

"Most people are insecure, and with good reason." (novelist Iaian Banks, "The Quarry")

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