



Wandering & Wondering

John Maybury

PACIFICA'S FINEST

Naturally, one month after my last car payment, something goes bump in the night -- in the front end. So off goes my Subie to Dave and Lou's Valero garage for a scan. Alas, it's something gnarly they can't fix, but they don't charge me for the diagnosis. Kudos to Dave Nonnini and crew, who run a real old-fashioned service station on Linda Mar at Highway 1, with the emphasis on SERVICE. People say the gas prices are too high there, but Dave has no control over that; the oil company sets the prices. What more than makes up for that is the pleasant customer experience at Dave and Lou's, where they do your windshields with a smile and, more important, treat your mechanical issues with care.

PACIFICA'S FINEST 2

Okay, so my Forester limps over to Bill Meyerhoff's Seaview Tire & Brake in Manor for special attention to its hurting front end. Bill's men get my wheels up on the rack and quickly determine that the problem is a separated sway bar assembly, a problem similar to a bad hip joint. Bill takes the trouble to educate non-mechanic customers like me about the work his shop does and how car parts function, and he does this in a way that is useful and almost comforting to the wary or unaware consumer. Bottom line: They get the job done ASAP and for a righteous price, saving me a long haul over the hill to the land of traffic, noise, confusion, and high prices. Please repeat after me: SHOP LOCALLY.

NAME GAMES

My name is Bondage, James Bondage. Just kidding. Now that I have your undivided attention (hey, quit texting while reading my column!), I want to have a little heart-to-heart chat with you, dear readers, about Tribune letters

to the editor. As our stated policy says on the top-left side of the editorial page: "Be civil and neighborly: no name-calling, no rants or sermons, no personal attacks. Stick to the issues. We will not print any libelous or inflammatory material. We reserve the right to decline a letter." Merriam-Webster's Dictionary describes name-calling as "use of offensive names especially to win an argument or to induce rejection or condemnation (as of a person or project) without objective consideration of the facts." You should look up the other key terms in the Tribune policy so you understand the full meaning of civil, neighborly, rant, sermon, libelous, and inflammatory. Now the point of this little discourse is to point out that in last week's letters I saw such unforgivable language as "nosey-body little leftist" and "the dredge [sic] of society...a motley assortment of freeloaders, aging and balding hippies with ponytails, college anarchists and suburban radicals." The people who wrote these words know who they are, and you know who they are, because the two of them have kept up a steady drumbeat of hate and character assassination week after week in the Tribune. There is no need for me to point them out by name. I condemn the inflammatory language they use in this newspaper. Everyone, please focus on facts and issues, not personalities, hairstyles, and Fox News labels. This is the same yardstick I apply to comments on my community blog Pacifica Riptide. The basic rule is: Keep it clean or keep it to yourself.

KARAOKE FOR HEALTH

Kudos to karaoke caroler Therese M. Dyer, who last week wrote a letter about my "Sing for Health" item and her longtime interest in karaoke music and singing as therapy for her asthma. May you wander and wonder in good health, Therese, and keep singing.

PACIFICA LAND TRUST

Pedro Point, our own local version of Diamond Head, has a friend called Pacifica Land Trust. This private open-space group works with Lynn Adams and Michael Vasey of the Pedro Point Headlands restoration effort to preserve and protect this natural resource at our southwest border. Homes on Pedro Point's north slope face Linda Mar beach and cove; the rest of the point is wildland being managed

and restored for an eventual county park when Devil's Slide Tunnels open sometime next year (knock on wood!). The land trust and restoration group need your participation, both financial and sweat equity. Call Lynn Adams at 650-355-1668 or visit the website at pacificalandtrust.org.

I SECOND THAT

"I would like to see them put in an ordinance for 'excessive' dog barking. Or, if one exists, enforce it." (Gary Muhs, a Jean "Bullets" Bartlett man-on-the-street quote on the front page of last week's paper)

AMERICAN GEEZER

Pacifican Rudie Tretten has just written a book, "Where Are We? Thoughts from an American Geezer," a collection of brief essays on society, politics, economics, education, and sports. Rudie worked with Amazon's Create Space to self-publish his book. Some of you may know Rudie from his excellent travelogues published in the Tribune. He also served on the Pacifica School District board for many years. Rudie and his wife of 57 years, Shirley, have lived in Pacifica since 1966. To buy the book, see Aaron Schlieve at Florey's Book Co. on Palmetto.

SITSEER

Hey, legal eagles, wanna know the law of the land? January 1 a bunch of new laws took effect, many of them thanks to hard work by our State Senator Leland Yee and State Assemblyman Jerry Hill. Get the 411 on Pacifica Riptide (pacificariptide.com): Scroll down to the December 31 stories or use the search engine to find Yee's and Hill's bills.

SWAMI SEZ

"Real men may not eat quiche, but I want to tell you that strata, the Italian version of this light but filling egg dish, pops up occasionally at the Oceana grocery store deli counter. It is to live for." (Shirley U. Jest)

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