



Wandering & Wondering

John Maybury

CLEAN MONEY

Democratic state Senator Leland Yee has been named a “Clean Money Champion” for receiving the state Senate’s top score of 120 percent on the California Clean Money Action Fund scorecard. Yee voted for every bill supported by the campaign and co-authored the California DISCLOSE Act that would have unveiled hidden funders of political ads by requiring ads to show who really pays for them (resulting in a 20 percent bonus on his 100 percent score). “I am proud to stand with the California Clean Money Campaign,” says Yee. “It is imperative that we update our laws to limit the influence of money in our political system. I look forward to working with the Clean Money Campaign, Common Cause, FPPC, League of Women Voters, and others as we develop legislation in 2013 to prohibit secret billionaires from trying to steal elections.”

LA MORDIDA TAQUERIA

The old Manor Taco Bell has morphed into a true Mexican taqueria called La Mordida, which translates as “the bite” but also has darker connotations. (You could look it up.) But no matter: La Mordida Taqueria has tasty bites. On the menu for dining in or takeout: tacos, burritos, quesadillas, nachos, tortas, mariscos (seafood), fajitas, combination plates, salads, handmade tortillas, excellent homemade flan, beer, wine, beverages, and weekend specials like menudo and birria (goat stew). It also has a kids menu, catering service, and a breakfast burrito plus coffee for five bucks. Info: lamordidataqueria.com

PUMPKIN POWER

I have discovered how tasty and nutritious plain pumpkin is, sweetened with a sugar substitute (sucralose, stevia, etc.) and spiced with clove, allspice, cinnamon,

ginger, and nutmeg (or just use a generic pumpkin pie spice). I tried a store brand and an organic brand but found that Libby’s (owned by Nestle) is not only cheaper but also healthier: higher fiber and lower carbs than other brands. Wondering why, I phoned Libby’s customer service and learned that Libby’s uses Dixon pumpkins from California, which apparently are naturally higher in the good stuff and lower in the bad stuff. Bonus: It’s gluten-free, loaded with vitamin A (300 mg per half-cup serving) and potassium (310 mg. per half-cup serving, a factoid I got from the phone rep but no longer listed on the label, for some reason). For my trouble, Libby’s sent me coupons and recipes. The cinnamon in my homemade pumpkin treat (eat as is or use in pumpkin pie) may help with blood sugar control, and I sometimes top it off with a shot of light whipped cream, which is marvelously low in fat and sugar but great-tasting. Enjoy!

ALL IN

“I was in many places during my career, but I don’t think I was ever in Cahoots. Apparently, you can’t go there alone. You have to be in Cahoots with someone. I’ve also never been in Cognito. I hear no one recognizes you there. I have been in Sane. They don’t have an airport; you have to be driven there. I have made several trips there, thanks to my friends, family and work. I live close, so it’s a short drive. I would like to go to Conclusions, but you have to jump, and I’m not too much on physical activity anymore. I have also been in Doubt. That is a sad place to go and I try not to visit there too often. I’ve been in Flexible, but only when it was very important to stand firm. Sometimes I’m in Capable, and I go there more often as I’m getting older. One of my favorite places to be is in Suspense! It really gets the adrenaline flowing and pumps up the old heart! At my age, I need all the stimuli I can get! And sometimes I think I am in Vincible, but life shows me I am not. People keep telling me I’m in Denial, but I’m positive I’ve never been there before! Are you travelling soon?” The preceding is one of those clever Internet gags that goes around and around like a stuck record. (If you don’t know what a record is, you may be too young to read this item!) I forwarded this to my writers and editors list, and got

these comic comebacks: “Not traveling soon, but I know that I will be in Extremis shortly before my death.” “Have you ever been in Satiabile? Now that’s a trip.” “I would have responded sooner, but I was in Carcerated, in Accessible, and in Competent.” So, are you in?

OK LIQUORS UPDATE

Jeff Bagshaw, who had known OK Liquors’ owner Steve since the store opened in 1984, says that Steve’s wife returned to Korea about five years ago, and that Steve’s sister has been helping run the store since then. Still no news about whether the business will remain open. Nancy Quintrell had patronized Steve’s store for many years. She says, “I wanted to give him my business when I was stocking up on a variety of libations for social events, work parties, etc. He was always very pleasant and helpful. Several years ago I met his son who was helping at the store and he told me he was a UC Davis graduate — my alma mater. I will miss Steve — may he rest in peace.”

SWAMI SEZ

“The best way to rob a bank is to own one.” (William Crawford)

SITeseer

- Share travel photos and stories: ballofdirt.com
- Build an energy-efficient custom home: clarum.com
- Database of 5,000 unique feline monikers: cat-names.us
- Scenic new coastal park: devilsslidecoast.org
- Scams, shams, and other outrages: ripoffreport.com

BLOCK THAT CLICHÉ

“Don’t look a gift horse in the mouth.” Gregg Levoy says this expression dates back to the 4th century A.D. Back then, if someone gave you a horse, it was considered bad manners to check the horse’s teeth for signs of age.

MAYBURRITOVILLE

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