



## Wandering & Wondering

John Maybury

### TRUE BELIEVER SEES THE LIGHT

Richard Cizik, a prominent conservative evangelical Christian, provides some of the most convincing testimony that science and conservatism can still coexist. Until 2002, Cizik says, he rejected climate change. Then, he says, he accepted an invitation to learn about it, from scientists. "I was persuaded at that time by the scientific evidence," Cizik says. "It was one of the most disturbing things I'd ever heard in my life — that climate shifts are negatively altering the planet forever. There's no denying the catastrophic impacts from global warming on people, never mind the rest of the planet." But it was the theological implications that humans were changing the planet so profoundly that really moved Cizik. "You have to care," he says, "not because of the science, but because God cares." The best solution to the climate impasse, in other words, and to get science back into the national conversation, is probably not more data. And it's certainly not more heated debate. Rather, it lies in finding ways to talk across political and cultural divides, and within communities and organizations. Democracy, in other words. The way it was meant to be. (This is an excerpt from Thomas Hayden's op-ed in the San Francisco Chronicle "Insight" section, February 5. Hayden teaches science communication and environmental sustainability at Stanford University. He is a trained scientist and has worked as a journalist for Newsweek, U.S. News and World Report, and other publications.)

### BROKEN LIGHTS

Scott McKellar notes an epidemic of cars with only one headlight or one taillight, or one of the headlights stuck on high beam (one of life's minor annoyances, if you happen to be in front of one of these drivers). Is our crummy economy keeping people from maintaining their cars better?

### THE WAY TO GO

When we motor down to L.A., our favorite drivetime topic is whether the trip would go better by air or rail. Our drive takes exactly six hours from Pacifica. We figure it is a shorter and more pleasurable trip than getting to SFO, going through airport security, waiting around the lounge, flying to LAX, collecting our bags, renting a car, and navigating the San Diego Freeway (aka the 405, in L.A. parlance) to our final destination. Of course, I would always prefer to go by rail. I have done both the coast and valley routes on Amtrak. The coast train takes all day (about 12 hours). The valley train/bus combo is several hours shorter. High-speed rail might take only three hours, but \$100 billion is way too much to spend for that luxury. Sorry, Jerry Brown. Instead, put even a decent fraction of that boondoggle into upgrading Amtrak to run 125 mph down the valley, and then it would compete with driving and flying. If Amtrak would use the Tehachapi/Mojave line into L.A. instead of those unspeakable buses over the Grapevine, the valley route would be a breeze, maybe four or five hours from city center to city center. Well, we can always dream. Meanwhile, we will keep driving down I-5 and enjoying the halfway stop at Harris Ranch or Tachi Palace.

### KDFC SIGNAL IMPROVES

Classical-music lovers on the coastside have been without an audible signal from KDFC since the radio station sold its valuable 102.1 frequency last year and gave up its commercial sponsors, becoming a listener-sponsored station at a much weaker position on the FM dial. But recently it moved its transmitter from atop the USF campus to a Sausalito hilltop, and now 90.3 comes in nicely (at least in the car) while you drive around Linda Mar, Sharp Park, and Manor (other parts of Pacifica still to be heard from; please let me know if you are getting the signal up in your neck of the woods -- email me at the address at the bottom of the column). Strangely, reception is lousy inside my house, so I stream KDFC on iTunes (classical radio) through a Bose Wave radio. You also can stream it through the Triton player at [kdrc.com](http://kdrc.com) or Channel 981 on Comcast cable.

### SITSEER

- Friends of felines: [alleycat.org](http://alleycat.org)
- Saving Biff's space-age drive-in: [dwell.com](http://dwell.com)
- High school student internships in transportation: [mtc.ca.gov](http://mtc.ca.gov)
- Bayer garden pesticide linked to bee colony collapse: [commdreams.org](http://commdreams.org)

### SWAMI SEZ

"I hold that the more helpless a creature, the more entitled it is to protection by man from the cruelty of man." (Mahatma Gandhi)

### MAYBURRITOVILLE

- Meandering: [LomaPrieta.SierraClub.org](http://LomaPrieta.SierraClub.org)
- Copyediting: [Goofbuster.com](http://Goofbuster.com)
- Blogging: [PacificaRiptide.com](http://PacificaRiptide.com)
- Email: [mayburrito@goofbuster.com](mailto:mayburrito@goofbuster.com)