



Wandering & Wondering

John Maybury

MERCIFUL MUSLIM

Please read this news story filed by Michael Graczyk of the Associated Press from Huntsville, Texas, and reprinted in the San Francisco Chronicle on July 21. Pay special attention to the account of the shooter's victim who survived yet forgave the shooter: "A Texas inmate has been executed for killing a Dallas-area convenience store clerk as part of a shooting spree that he said was in retaliation for the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks. The lethal injection of Mark Stroman was briefly delayed as the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals considered a final appeal. The U.S. Supreme Court rejected appeals earlier Wednesday. Stroman, 41, claimed the shooting spree that killed two men and injured a third [had] targeted people of Middle Eastern descent, though all three victims were from South Asia. It was the death of 49-year-old Vasudev Patel that put Stroman on Death Row. In an unusual step, surviving victim Rais Bhuiyan asked the courts to halt Stroman's execution. Bhuiyan, a native of Bangladesh and a former convenience store worker, lost the sight in one of his eyes when Stroman shot him in the face. In a lawsuit, he argued his religious beliefs as a Muslim told him to forgive Stroman. He also said he wanted to spend time with the convict to learn more about why the shootings occurred. 'Killing him is not the solution,' Bhuiyan said. 'He's learning from his mistake. If he's given a chance, he's able to reach out to others and spread that message to others.' A federal judge in Austin

rejected the suit and Bhuiyan's request for an injunction on Wednesday. His lawyers appealed the ruling to the U.S. Supreme Court, where Justice Antonin Scalia turned it down, before the state court rejected another appeal on Bhuiyan's behalf."

PALINDROMES REDUX

The sad news that Pacifica came in runner-up to Sand Point, Idaho in the Rand McNally "Best of the Road" contest has Pacifica palindrome lovers thinking: "Now, O' had I decal: 'Pacifica placed; Idaho won!'" (Alan Wald)

WORLD WIDE WEIRD

High winds off the coast of southern Australia have blown the water in waterfalls backward up over the crest. See amazing videos on the Internet.

BOSTON BILL DOA

Apparently, Boston Bill's Cheese-steak & Chowder House is a no-show. The disappearance of the "coming soon" sign suggests that the mysterious new beanery in the old Rockaway Beach KFC store is a non-starter.

GOOD GUY

Scott and Patty McKellar are doing their bit to support Pacifica's economy by having a giant family reunion in early August, which will fill a number of local motel rooms and undoubtedly enrich several local eateries, grocery stores, and other businesses. People are coming here for this event from as far away as London, England. God save the Queen, and the McKellars!

LOST AND FOUND

Avril Hughes spotted a mature desert tortoise (see photo) purposefully striding down the center of Adobe Drive last week. A neighbor called the humane society (ASPCA) and herded the tortoise into his yard for safekeeping until the animal control officer came. No word yet on where it came from, although it probably didn't walk there from the Mojave Desert. It weighs about 50 pounds, has a scrape on the top of its shell, and is not wearing a collar. If you know anything about this lost creature, please contact the county animal shelter. (Ian Butler reported this story on Pacifica Riptide, and several people submitted comments about the tortoise.)

SWAMI SEZ

"The world is a tragedy for those who feel and a comedy for those who think." (Unknown)

BOOK OF THE WEEK

"Fresh Air Fiend" by Paul Theroux (order from Florey's Book Co. on Palmetto in Sharp Park).

BOOKS I NEED TO WRITE

- No Strings Attached: Ventriloquism for Dummies
- Invisible Ink: Ghostwriting for Psychics

SITSEER

- Gary Hanauer's annual guide to California nude beaches in the San Francisco Bay Guardian: sfbg.com/nudebeaches
- Private search engines: startpage.com, startingpage.com (forwarded by Undisclosed Recipient)

MAYBURRITOVILLE

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- Blogger: Pacifica Riptide, Inner Editor.
- Copyeditor: Goofbuster.
- Teacher: Your Inner Editor.
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SUBMITTED BY IAN BUTLER

Desert tortoise seen on Adobe Drive last week.



FROM THE INTERNET

East Coast meltdown — too hot even for an ice cream truck.