

Cliffhanger

I am sure that all Coastsiders feel great sympathy for Palmetto and Esplanade homeowners, tenants, and business owners whose dwellings and properties hang precipitously over the edge of Pacifica's bluffs, taking a beating from El Nino storm surges, high waves, and runoff. Nothing should have been built on top of these compressed-sand dunes in the first place, but back in the Fifties and Sixties when the structures went up along Palmetto and Esplanade, they had adequate margins for lawns, yards, decks, patios -- and blind faith in the future. But of course, greed for a quick buck and lust for an ocean view won out over science and common sense. So now we end up with a state of emergency, mass evacuations of apartment buildings, environmental and economic ruin for the city, and displacement of already-stressed citizens, one of whom (Michelle MacKay) was widely quoted in the news media last week as saying, "I'm not worried. I have a lot more faith in God than to be worried about this." We wish them all good luck, and ask you to support the Pacifica Resource Center, which is struggling to help house and feed those unfortunate folks who have lost a roof over their heads.

Coast Defender Under Fire

The California Coastal Commission (CCC) protects our marine environment for the public to enjoy beach access, open space, beautiful scenery, nature and

wildlife preservation. Unfortunately, four of Governor Brown's commission appointees with a pro-development agenda are out to get rid of CCC Executive Director Charles Lester, a staunch defender of the coast. Please write, email, or call the governor and the commission with a simple message: Keep Charles Lester!

Baseball Is Back

Hey, good news, baseball fans! Pitchers and catchers report to spring training in just a couple of weeks. Get out your bats and gloves and get ready to warm up that spaghetti arm. Meanwhile, Major League Baseball is contemplating changes in the nation's pastime, including playing a few games in London, raising the strike zone from below the kneecap to above the kneecap, and – horror of horrors! – bringing American League designated-hitter rules to the National League. Baseball purists are up in arms about that last one, but proponents of the DH say it will prevent pitcher injuries and increase offense (the people's choice: hits and runs). If you don't believe this safety stuff, just look at all the senior-circuit pitchers who have hurt themselves swinging wildly at pitches they can't hit or running hard to first base on ground balls to the infield, even after their managers told them to take it easy out there on the field. Million-dollar babies, my left foot!

Swami Sez

"There is a cult of ignorance in the United States, and there has always been. The strain of anti-intellectualism has been a constant thread winding its way through our political and cultural life, nurtured by the false notion that democracy means that 'my ignorance is just as good as your knowledge.'" (Isaac Asimov)

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