

FOOL ME ONCE

“Some 35 million Americans fall for scams each year, according to the Federal Trade Commission. One reason for our susceptibility to deception is that evolution has tipped humans toward trusting and cooperating with each other for mutual advantage. Research shows how hard it is for us to detect a swindler. Hundreds of lie-detection studies show that we succeed at it less than half the time – flipping a coin would be more accurate. This may be because most of our stereotypes about liars are wrong. People don’t avoid eye contact or fidget when they’re lying, says Leanne ten Brinke, a researcher on deception at the University of Denver. ... A sucker is born every minute. And that sucker is us.” (Susan Pinker, “Mind & Matter,” Wall Street Journal, April 1)

BAGPIPER SUES RITZ-CARLTON

After nine years as the Half Moon Bay Ritz-Carlton Hotel's bagpipe player, often seen and heard roaming the hotel grounds as the sun sets, Michael Seibert has lost his job to another bagpiper, so he is suing the Ritz-Carlton in San Mateo County Superior Court. (news item posted by Alan Wald on PacificaRiptide.com)

CONSTANT COYOTE

Chronicle outdoors columnist Tom Stienstra wrote April 9 about Pacifican Cindi Ekberg’s nearly daily backyard visitor: a coyote and its pups. Ekberg says she never lets her collie Kody out in the backyard. (Speaking of local wildlife, several readers have sent me pictures of wild turkeys roaming Park Pacifica and Linda Mar. I’m rather partial to Wild Turkey myself.)

ASK A LIBRARIAN

A man walks into a library and asks, "Can I have a cheeseburger?" The librarian says, "Sir, this is a library." The man whispers, "Can I have a cheeseburger?"

THE POSTMAN MAY NOT RING TWICE

The U.S. Postal Service reports that dog bites have increased dramatically nationwide due to a surge in online shopping and home deliveries.

GRAMMAR NAZI

TRUMP: The less immigrants we let in, the better.

PENCE: The fewer.

TRUMP: Shh, don't call me that in public.

DESERT DWELLERS

Filmmaker Ermanno Vanino has created an Internet TV series at DesertDwellers4.com. Ermanno travels around the Southwest's four great deserts (Mojave, Sonora, Chihuahua, and the Great Basin) interviewing unusual characters who live and work in the arid zone.

GET ON THE BUS, GUS

Join SamTrans for a conversation about future bus service on the Coastside. At the community meeting, SamTrans staff will introduce the Coastside Transit Study. This will also be an opportunity for the public to share ideas for future SamTrans service. The study evaluates bus service in Pacifica, Half Moon Bay, and other Coastside communities, recommending ways to maximize efficiency and provide the best service possible. The meeting is on Thursday, April 27 at 6:30 p.m., Pacifica Community Center, 540 Crespi Drive. Those unable to attend can learn more about the study and send comments to samtrans.com/coastsidestudy.

SWAMI SEZ

"We may have democracy or we may have great wealth concentrated in the hands of a few, but we cannot have both." (Supreme Court Justice Louis Brandeis, born 1856, died 1941)

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