



Wandering & Wondering

John Maybury

FISH AND BOWL 1

A regular reader of this column, William Trichon is concerned about the proposed building of four individual apartments on upper Palmetto Avenue in the parcel commonly known as The Fish & Bowl. The Pacifica Planning Commission voted 5-0 to approve the project at its April 6 meeting. Trichon says, "The commission discounted every objection that I and other Pacificans made at the meeting. The term 'rubber stamp' comes to mind. We are most worried that this opens the door to The Fish & Bowl and that construction of these four seemingly unobtrusive buildings is but a preview of what's to come." (billyphiladelphia.com)

FISH AND BOWL 2

Another concerned reader, Victor Carmichael, clarifies that the interested party present at the April 6 meeting was an attorney/developer who had failed several years ago to attain building permits to allow a 43-unit complex in the Bowl parcel and then probably sell them, adding, "It was stopped by the California Coastal Commission when it repealed the City of Pacifica approved Coastal Development Permit, which the commission could do since it was legally in the zone west of the first frontage road and the Pacific Ocean, as it included some of the right-of-way of Palmetto Avenue."

THIRSTY ALMONDS

Are almonds a waste of water? They're being blamed so much that almond lovers are pushing back with articles like Gizmodo's "Seriously, Stop Demonizing Almonds." So what are the facts? It takes 23 gallons of water to grow 23 almonds, a typical serving size. Almonds are the second-thirstiest crop in California behind alfalfa, a superfood for cows that sucks up 15 percent of the state's

irrigation water. Almonds account for close to 10 percent of the state's agricultural water use, more than what the entire populations of Los Angeles and San Francisco use in a year. But almonds are hugely profitable for California. Last year, almonds brought in \$11 billion to the state's economy. Alfalfa acreage is expected to shrink 11 percent this year, and cotton acres will dwindle to their lowest level since the 1920s. The market is pushing almonds and other nuts in the opposite direction. Almonds deliver farmers an average net return of \$1,431 per acre, while pistachios net \$3,519 per acre. Paramount Farms, which manages 50,000 acres of almond trees, plans to expand by 50 percent in the next five years. (Posted by Gary Hanauer on PacificaRiptide.com)

ADULT COLORING BOOKS

Following up on my recent item about adult coloring books (art therapy or just for fun), Chris Fogel ordered an intricate, mazelike poster for coloring, "Watergorn" from wildergorn.com. I also heard from artist friend Christine Auda (audaart.com) about her favorite adult coloring book: "Coloring Mandalas 1" by Susanne F. Fincher. Christine says there are many more titles in this hot new category on Amazon.com. If you want to support your local bookstore, ask Aaron Schlieve at Florey's Book Co. on Palmetto if he can get his hands on adult coloring books.

SWAMI SEZ

"The hardness of the butter is proportional to the softness of the bread."

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