

Wandering and wondering

By John Maybury *Pacifica Tribune San Jose Mercury News*

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TOUGH QUESTIONS FOR COUNCIL CANDIDATES

SAMOS posted this on Pacifica Riptide: Here's a starter list of questions to ask City Council candidates in the upcoming November election. Add your own questions to the list.

1. Other than family members, who are the top three financial contributors to your campaign?
2. No City Council members told us when they ran last time that they would try to raise our taxes. Would you seek another tax hike?
3. Did you support the purge of the Planning Commission? If so, why?
4. What changes do you want in a revised General Plan? Do you think Pacifica should promote more housing?
5. Do you think that alternatives to widening Highway 1 should be studied before City Council votes on widening Highway 1?
6. How would commuters get to and from work during the widening if lanes were closed during construction?
7. Why do you want to be on City Council?

MERCURY & MARS IN MAY

"Mercury is appearing in the west in the early evening, trying to shine through the colors of the sunset. This is the best month of the year to see Mercury, with the end of May giving you your greatest chance to spot it. Mercury is brightest when it is closest to the sun, but it will be hard to see Mercury until after it has risen a bit higher in the sky and dimmed from its peak of brightness. On May 8, both Mercury and Mars shine at magnitude -1.0. Both planets get dimmer after this date, but Mercury dims more quickly. However, it also climbs farther away from the sunset's glow, which actually makes it easier to see." ("The Green Life," *Sierra Magazine*)

PICKLES FOR PARATROOPERS

"You came into our territory with weapons. Why are you here?" asked a man in shorts, flip-flops and a red T-shirt that declared "Born in the USSR." He refused to give his name, but said he was from Kramatorsk and pointed to a jar of pickled gherkins he said he brought for the troops. (Wall Street Journal report on Ukrainian paratroop movements in the pro-Russian part of the country, April 17)

GENTLE DENTAL

When it comes to dentist appointments, I am the biggest baby in the world. I get nervous beforehand, and I spend the whole visit in the chair worrying that the worst will happen to me. But over several years of

going to Dr. Ryan Henspetter at Cabrillo Dental on Crespi, I have been learning to relax. Ryan talks while he works, which I find very reassuring, because I like to know what is going on. Ryan calls it his "dental drone." Throughout root canals, crowns, fillings, and novocaine shots, I have never felt the slightest pain. Ryan is batting a thousand in my scorebook. Maybe someday I will even look forward to the visit.

SEWER PLANT WEDDINGS

Brightwater Wastewater Treatment Center in Kings County, Washington rents out its facility for weddings at \$2,000 for eight hours. One lucky couple has already booked the place. (Tim Williams forwarded this news item from ABC News.) Memo to the City of Pacifica: revenue opportunity?

DOG VS. CAT

"Dogs have lived with us for as many as 30,000 years--20,000 years longer than cats. More than any other animal on the planet, dogs are tuned in to the 'human radio frequency'--the broadcast of our feelings and desires. Indeed, we may be the only station dogs listen to. Cats, on the other hand, can tune us in if they want to (that's why they pass the pointing test as well as dogs), but they don't hang on our every word like dogs do. They're surfing other channels on the dial. And that's ultimately what makes them so hard to study. Cats, as any owner knows, are highly intelligent beings. But to science, their minds may forever be a black box." (Slate.com)

MAYBURRITOVILLE

Email: mayburrito@goofbuster.com

Blogger: PacificaRiptide.com

Editor: Goofbuster.com