



Wandering & Wondering

John Maybury

WRONG-WAY DUI KILLS PACIFICAN

July 25 a Daly City woman drove drunk out of the Sea Bowl/Surf Spot parking lot, mistakenly turned left, and drove uphill in the northbound lanes of Highway 1, hitting and killing an innocent Pacifican headed over the hill from Linda Mar to Rockaway in broad daylight. “That’s exactly what she did,” confirms Acting Police Chief Daniel Steidle. The woman faces vehicular manslaughter charges, but where was she drinking and who served her the drinks? Why wasn’t there a big red WRONG WAY sign and other warning devices on the road where she made the fateful decision to turn left and go the wrong way up the hill? Was she distracted by using her smartphone or car infotainment system? Was she unfamiliar with the divided highway? Will we ever know the answers to these and other questions?

STUPID CRIMINAL

A San Francisco man drowned his cat in a weighted bag he threw into the bay, but the cat was microchipped and the authorities traced it back to the owner and charged him with felony animal cruelty. Now that’s what I call “good” karma. As to what an appropriate punishment should be for this jerk, I call Judge Roy Bean to the bench. (Source: San Francisco Chronicle)

LONG GONE

Now that the New Horizons spaceship has photographed dwarf planet Pluto and flown off into the Kuiper Belt and beyond, what will happen to the little vehicle the size of a grand piano? How far will it go and will we ever hear from it again? After it did such a great job for nine years and achieved its goal, is it fair to consider it space junk? Similarly, whatever became of the Pioneer and Voyager spacecraft after they had reached their objectives? Are you wondering why I am wandering into this twilight

zone? Just curious. After watching “Mission to Pluto” and “Chasing Pluto” on PBS last week, I became an instant Plutonian. As a Baby Boomer, I grew up watching the space race on TV: those early-morning launches from Cape Canaveral, me sitting on the floor spooning up a bowlful of Alpha-Bits and milk, getting excited about the countdowns and the stage separations and the lure of outer space. Old habits die hard.

DRIVERLESS CARS

Scott McKellar wonders if driverless cars are insured by uninsurance companies and serviced by unmechanics. And what happens to all those manufacturers of seatbelts, car stereos, floor mats, air fresheners, fuzzy dice, squeegees, and all the other accoutrements of human-driven cars?

WATER-SAVING IDEA

Christian Ryvlin suggests that hardware stores may carry manual or motorized bilge pumps you can use to get your bathwater (“gray water”) out to the garden.

WHERE TO PUT THEM ALL?

“The Swedish furniture giant is offering a free kit to help customers [secure their Ikea chests and dressers]. The kit will be available to anyone who bought 27 million chests and dressers...” (San Francisco Chronicle, Business News, July 23)

SWAMI SEZ

“Oh look, a computer with its own printer.” (Young kid seeing his first typewriter, 2015)

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