

## **ORWELL IN THE QUARRY**

Perhaps you have seen all the advertising for Yes on W, a ballot measure to allow up to 206 four-story-high housing units in Rockaway Quarry. Something called “Preserve the Quarry” pays for these expensive ads. I don’t understand how developing the quarry would preserve it. Seems like a contradiction in terms. It reminds me of the “doublethink” and “newspeak” in George Orwell’s novel “1984”: Ministry of Truth (propaganda), Ministry of Peace (war), Ministry of Love (torture, brainwashing). What you see is NOT what you get. So I urge you to study Measure W very carefully. Know exactly what you are voting for on November 8.

## **LOCAL HEROES**

Julie Lancelle’s Tribune story (“How Pacificans helped save Mori Point,” Sept. 28) should be required reading for all local environmental activists. Julie told the history of Pacificans fighting several proposed developments on Mori Point. Pacificans were then, as now, motivated to protect existing businesses, limit Highway 1 traffic, save coastal open space, and preserve Mori Point’s Native American artifacts and endangered-species habitat. Finally, after years of struggle, the community seized an opportunity to rescue the scenic headland at auction and shepherd it through the Pacifica Land Trust (with major support from nature photographer Stephen Johnson), the Trust for Public Land, Congressman Tom Lantos, and finally the Golden Gate National Recreation Area (GGNRA), which is now restoring Mori Point’s natural beauty, turning it into a national park system gem.

## **STAGECRAFT**

Nonverbal cues and body language can get people to listen and engage with you as a leader, teacher, coach, etc. Keep your head straight and still. Look people in the eye, but without staring. Smile when appropriate. Make important points by gesturing with your whole hand, not finger-pointing. Otherwise, keep your hands and body still, avoiding nervous, fidgety movements. Get out from behind the lectern, pause occasionally, and focus on individual audience members, speaking slowly and authoritatively, using positive, specific language. (Source: Aili McConnon, Wall Street Journal, Oct. 2)

## **BASEBALL FOREVER**

Writer Susan Jacoby is working on a book about baseball. She recently wrote a Wall Street Journal column (“Baseball and Its Aging Fans,” Aug. 20) mourning American youths’ preference for fast-paced sports like football. “Can a game with a 19<sup>th</sup>-century tempo survive in the age of digital distraction?” she asked, noting that baseball has the oldest fan base of any major sport. For us slowpokes and geezers, the beauty of baseball is that, unlike any other sport, it is played without a clock (except for those silly, useless mound visits by pitching coaches, which should be abolished anyway). As some sage has noted, a baseball game hypothetically could go on indefinitely, until the last out. Stop and think about that. It would be torture, but what a delightful way to go.

## **NAVY SEALS?**

In Spain, the Oceanographic Foundation is training sea lions to help in search-and-rescue missions. The highly intelligent marine mammals apparently learn as easily as dogs can. (Earthweek, Oct. 23)

### **SWAMI SEZ**

“Always forgive your enemies; nothing annoys them so much.” (Oscar Wilde)

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