

Wandering & Wondering

John Maybury



Trail mix

A faithful reader of this column went out for a peaceful jog with her dog on Mori Point recently. Three twentysomething mountain bikers came up behind her fast, freaking out her dog. She says she expressed her “exasperation” but that they screamed obscenities at her. Being a creative person, she taunted them with a rousing rendition of the Village People’s “Macho Men.”

This really set off the testosterone. So she left the scene and reported the incident to GGNRA police. The point is, hikers and bikers have to learn to share the trails and be considerate to each other. The behavior of the three bikers in this instance did nothing to promote goodwill between the two camps. Both sides need to dial down the hostility and get along together or stay out of each other’s way. (Full disclosure: I hike and bike.)

Women’s business

A www.womenswallstreet.com feature on identity theft advised consumers to: shred personal documents; protect credit cards from prying eyes of thieves with cell phone cameras; never give Social Security number, except to legitimate employer; never respond to free credit report email or email chain letters; report scams to FBI (www.ifccfbi.gov/index.asp), FTC (www.consumer.gov/idtheft), or state attorney general. (forwarded by Shirley Arden)

True lies and rumors

Will there be a draft? No one in Washington seems to know for sure, or at least no one is saying. Arm yourself with facts: www.mothersagainstthedraft.org, www.sanmateopeaceaction.org,

www.objector.org, www.afsc.org

Love and compassion

Series on “Seven Points of Mind Training” based on Tibetan Buddhist meditation. Taught by Brad Byrum, Pacifica Center for Solitude. Saint Edmund’s Episcopal Church, 1500 Perez Drive, Thursday, March 10, 7:30-9 p.m. Series continues April 14 and May 12. Info: brqad@asalake.net. In a separate but related event, Pacifica Peace People presents John B. Kinyon (www.jbksolutions.com) in a workshop on nonviolent communication, including practical skills for transforming conflict and alienation into peace and understanding.

Marshall Rosenberg has developed this process over the past 40 years in 40 countries, working with families, communities, schools, businesses, government, law firms, prisons, urban gangs, health care and social services, law enforcement, and even Afghan tribal elders. Meet at the home of Steve St. Clair, 271 Stanley Avenue, Saturday, March 5, 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sliding scale \$100 to \$50, but no one turned away for lack of funds. Register: Clark Natwick, 359-3600, natwick@sbcglobal.net

Pacifica’s Mediterranean plants

Well-known field botanist and plant photographer Glenn Keator presents a slide show and talk on summer drought-resistant plants.

Free event sponsored by The Friends of SPVP (formerly The Volunteers). Refreshments available. San Pedro Valley Park visitor center, Saturday, March 5, 7:30 p.m. Info: carolynpankow@comcast.net

This could be your big break!

Pacifica Currents is a community

access TV show on cable Channel 26. It covers local issues and events. Producer Sharron Walker is on partial sabbatical and is looking for a co-producer. To apply, contact General Manager Marty Anaya (martinanaya@yahoo.com), Sharron Walker (SharronLee@aol.com), or call the station at 355-8000. For the next month, reruns or “encore” shows air Wednesdays and Thursdays at 6:30 p.m., Saturdays at 7 p.m.

Mountain high

Scott McKellar says his friend Kung Fu Tom was fooling around at his campground in the Sierra, taunting his buddies by grabbing a baby rattlesnake by the tail and swinging it at them.

What Tom didn’t know is that baby rattlesnakes (unlike adult rattlers, which hold back enough venom for a second bite) release all their venom on the first bite. Okay, so Tom got snake-bit. Bad news. So what does he do?

While his friends drive him down the mountain to get medical help, he drinks some beer, a lot of beer, a six pack. Three hours later, at Mills Peninsula Hospital, Tom staggers into the emergency room and the surprised doctor who treats him says the beer must have saved his life. Now, friends, what is the moral of this story?

Swami Sez

“Success is getting what you want. Happiness is wanting what you get.” (Dale Carnegie)

Mayburritoville

How many White House officials does it take to change a light bulb?

Answer: none. There is nothing wrong with the light bulb. Its conditions are improving every day. Any reports of its lack of incandescence are a delusional spin by the liberal media.

There is no shortage of filament. That light bulb has served honorably, and anything you say undermines the lighting effect. Why do you hate freedom? (Only mayburrito@goofbuster.com knows for sure.)