

Wandering & Wondering



John Maybury

TOO CLOSE FOR COMFORT

“Six Days of the Condor” (1975), starring Robert Redford, is still relevant. In case you’ve forgotten the plot, it concerns a secret cabal inside the CIA that wants to invade the Middle East for oil. Redford plays an innocent low-level CIA researcher who stumbles upon the plot and blows the whistle on it by giving the story to the New York Times. Ironically, the CIA’s New York office in the film is in the World Trade Center. Extensive footage shot inside and outside the twin towers makes this movie especially spooky, with the whole story line about U.S. spies conspiring to make war on the Middle East for oil.

SURF EXTRAVAGANZA

Pedro Point Community Association and Mavsurfer, in partnership with Pedro Point Surf Club, are pleased to present a Surf Extrava-

ganza at Pedro Point Firehouse. This will be a celebration of local surfing, featuring surf imagery of local surf photographers Don Montgomery, Frank Quirarte, and Glen Hogarton. Don’s and Frank’s surf shots have been published in major surf publications and recently in the San Francisco Chronicle, and they have received awards for their photography. Visit Mavsurfer.com to see their work. Also, local surf band The Wander Inns will perform. Images include classic and never-before-seen shots of Pacifica and Half Moon Bay, including the current big-wave season at Mavericks. New surf shorts from Powerlines Productions, Grant Washburn, and Billabong XXL also will be presented. This event is a benefit for the maintenance fund of historic Pedro Point Firehouse. The event is on Friday, January 11. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. The Wander Inns go on at 7:00 p.m. Pedro Point Firehouse is at 1227 Danmann Avenue off San Pedro Road in the Pedro Point district of Pacifica (follow the frontage road west from the traffic light at Highway 1 and Linda Mar). Admission is \$15 for adults and \$10 for groms, and includes two raffle tickets. There will be a big raffle with lots of great gear. Snacks and beverages will be available. (Danny Estrella, Pedro Point Community Association)

HEALERS OF THE MAYA

Matt Levie emails: “A documentary I just finished editing, Healers of the Maya, is now available (for free) on VUZE.com. It’s part of a contest, so I hope you’ll be able to download and view it. Your honest comments are always welcome, via e-mail or on the site. If you like it, I hope you’ll forward the link to others you think might appreciate it.”

SUNSPOTS, SOLAR CYCLE

Solar physicists have been waiting for the appearance of a reversed-polarity sunspot to signal the start of the next solar cycle. The wait is over. A magnetically reversed, high-latitude sunspot has emerged. This marks the beginning of Solar Cycle 24 and the first step toward a new solar maximum. Intense solar activity won’t begin right away. Solar cycles usually take a few years to build from solar minimum (where we are now) to Solar Max (expected in 2011 or 2012). It’s a slow journey, but we’re on our way! Visit spaceweather.com for pictures of the new sunspot and updates.

GREEN DIMES

GreenDimes.com is the trusted leader in stopping junk mail and unwanted catalogs. In the U.S. alone, more than 100 million trees

and 28 billion gallons of water will be lost this year to create junk mail. GreenDimes already has stopped 3 million pounds of junk mail and planted 425,000 trees, all in just over a year. GreenDimes cuts up to 90 percent of your home’s junk mail and plants 5 trees through its nonprofit tree-planting partners, all for a one-time fee of \$20. GreenDimes has more than 3,000 different catalogs in its Catalog Screener opt-out database.

IMMIGRATION DIALOG

“Even though I am living outside the U.S. right now, I try to keep up with the Pacifica Tribune online. I enjoy your column, but I disagree with your column on December 12 in regards to illegal immigrants, because you are mixing two arguments, illegal immigration versus immigration. I think the vast majority of Americans do not have a problem with someone immigrating to the U.S. and going through the process of becoming a U.S. citizen. That is the history of our country and it probably one of the main reasons why our country has been so prosperous. However, I believe that many if not most Americans (myself included) have a problem with illegals. No one likes a line cutter and that is what they are. Instead of going through the process, they illegally enter the

U.S. They then depress wages and utilize public services. There is not one single method of dealing with illegal immigration. It requires the federal government to do a better job of border management and utilizing existing laws that penalize employers for hiring illegals. It requires state and local governments to stop giving illegals drivers licenses, health care, and education. It requires employers to quit complaining about the cost of hiring Americans: remember, you are an American also. It also requires American consumers to get over the idea of getting everything at Wal-Mart prices. In order for all Americans to make a decent wage and to have a good standard of living (like yourselves), employers have to pay well, which means you do not get products and services for dirt cheap.” (Kevin O’Driscoll, West Fairway Park, currently Antibes, France)
•I replied to Kevin: “I think the U.S. has a double standard on immigration. We like to talk tough about criminalizing those who sneak through the border to work our menial jobs, but we allow industries to exploit illegals for cheap labor. The federal government makes a big play of getting tough on illegals, but to serve its corporate masters, it looks the

other way and lets industry use the cheap labor to boost its profits. We are hypocrites on this issue. I am not mixing two arguments; it is the federal government and big business that mix the two. Thanks for reading the column and taking the time to write.” (Kevin graciously emailed back: “Point taken.”)

SWAMI SEZ

•“If a cat spoke, it would say things like ‘Hey, I don’t see the problem here.’” (Roy Blount, Jr.)
•“Dogs come when they’re called; cats take a message and get back to you.” (Mary Bly)
•“Be cheerful, even after considering all the facts.” (Wendell Berry)

SITeseer

•New news site: zcommunications.org
•Stop unwanted catalogs: catalogchoice.org, greendimes.com

MAYBURRITOVILLE

•Send stories & pix: mayburrito@goofbuster.com
•My columns: PacificaTribune.com, WanderingAndWondering.com
•Local news: PacificaRiptide.com