

Wandering & Wondering



John Maybury

GLOBAL DUMBING

It is truly sad to read letters from climate change deniers and realize that human nature has not changed that much since the days when people believed the earth was flat. If you pay any attention at all to newspapers, radio, TV, books, magazines, or the Internet, you can't help but see pictures and stories of melting glaciers and extreme weather worldwide. If we could ask penguins and polar bears, they would tell us the earth is in trouble. And yet deniers continue writing letters to the editor denying the existence of global warming. I despair for the fate of our civilization, not only because of what is happening to the environment but because of what is happening to our ability to respond to dire warnings from nature that our life-support system is failing. Aren't we supposed to be smarter than ostriches? Just remember what's sticking up in the air when you bury your head in the sand.

LIVE POOR, VOTE RICH

PBS' Bill Moyers recently interviewed John Grisham, writer of legal thrillers such as "The Firm" and "The Pelican Brief." Moyers asked Grisham why in the world a low-income, working-class voter would register Republican. Grisham's pithy explanation: "Live poor, vote rich."

HOT FLASH

"We're close to hitting our goal of 25,000 e-mails calling on Gov. Schwarzenegger to take 48 state parks off the chopping block. In fact, the governor's office has been getting so many e-mails they called me personally to talk about the issue. With so much at stake...let's keep up the pressure. Help put us over the top: Tell the governor that we won't let up until state parks are protected...Gov. Schwarzenegger recently announced a budget proposal would shut down 20 percent of the state's parks, as well as cut down on lifeguards at state beaches. Of course, we all know California needs to balance the budget. But we're talking about a step that would save \$9 million—less than 0.1 percent of the state budget. Across the state, people have been voicing their outrage at the governor's plan and its impact on our environment, our quality of life, and our confidence in state government. Editorials have been run in almost every major California paper...Take action now. Go to environmentcalifornia.org and

sign our statement to the governor. " (Dan Jacobson, Environment California, Legislative Director, DanJ@environmentcalifornia.org)

SURFIN' SAFARI

Here's another hot flash! California Coastal Commission votes 8-2 to reject planned 241 Toll Road and protect Trestles and San Onofre State Beach. Thousands turn out for historic meeting in Del Mar, making clear to commissioners that destruction of state parks and coastal resources is unacceptable. Record-breaking crowd comprises diverse cross section of beach users, including surfers, fishers, students, families, seniors, Native American tribal representatives, and surf industry (manufacturers, shapers, media, athletes). Many send letters and YouTube videos to commissioners and governor asking toll road be blocked. Surfrider Foundation partners with Sierra Club, California State Parks Foundation, Natural Resources Defense Council, Endangered Habitats League, Sea and Sage Audubon Society, Defenders of Wildlife, WildCoast, countless others. Decision is big win but may not be death knell for toll road. Still could take major uphill battle to overcome. You can help: Join the above groups to continue fight to save state beaches and parks. (Source: Mark Rauscher, Assistant Environmental Director, Surfrider Foundation)

HAVE A HEART

Some greeting card stores may offer only four or five "looks" for Valentine's Day, but Fog City News has more than 20 different card lines. Looking ahead, Shawn Askinosie, founder of one of the newest chocolate companies in this country, Askinosie Chocolate, will appear at lunchtime on Friday, Feb. 22, from noon to 2 p.m. He'll tell you about his wonderful profit-sharing programs that go way beyond fair trade. (Source: Adam Smith, Fog City News, 455 Market Street, San Francisco, 415-543-7400, fogcitynews.com)>

SHAMELESS PLUG

Fog City News voted "Best Newsstand" and "Best Candy Store" in Bay Area. Carries more magazines than any other local newsstand (700+ in the foreign section alone). With 200+ premium bars, has largest selection of imported chocolate in Northern California. Inventory is completely computerized to provide detailed editorial and shipping information for thousands of magazines. Has compiled tasting notes on every bite-size item and bar in stock. Also has hundreds of distinctive greeting cards and largest collection of nostalgic and imported glass-bottle soda pop in the Financial District. One block away from Montgomery BART station.

HELP WANTED

Seaflow (seaflow.org) seeks new Campaigns Director passionate about ocean and/or environment, natural-born organizer and advocate, preferably with background in or knowledge of ocean and environmental issues. Campaigns Director responsible for launching newly planned campaign to reduce and regulate ocean noise pollution in California from large cargo vessels and oil supertankers. Campaigns Director also responsible for managing new Vessel Watch Project to monitor large cargo vessels and oil supertankers. Campaigns Director reports directly to Executive Director. Email cover letter, CV, and writing samples to Robert Ovetz, Ph.D., Executive Director, robert@seaflow.org.

PEAKNIK PANIC PICNIC

Peakniks stockpile food and fuel for the coming of peak oil, the end of the world as we know it, the mother of all bubbles, end times. Party on!

PRESIDENTIAL SUCCESSION

The Presidential Succession Law of 1947 addresses simultaneous disability of both president and vice president. To assume the presidency, a person must also meet all legal requirements to serve as president. Order of succession: Vice President, Speaker of the House, President Pro Tem of the Senate, Secretary of State, Secretary of the Treasury, Secretary

of Defense, Attorney General, Secretary of the Interior, Secretary of Agriculture, Secretary of Commerce, Secretary of Labor, Secretary of Health and Human Services, Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, Secretary of Transportation, Secretary of Energy, Secretary of Education, Secretary of Veterans Affairs, Secretary of Homeland Security.

SWAMI SEZ

"No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you're welcome here." (Motto of United Church of Christ, ucc.org, Barack Obama's denomination)

SITeseer

- The view from above: guessthespot.com
- San Francisco Writers Conference, Feb. 15-17: sfwriters.org
- Gamers convention, San Ramon, Feb. 15-18: dundracon.com
- Jean Bartlett covers Coastside arts and music: jeansmagazines.org
- Tamfest tamburitza music festival, Feb. 15-17: croatianamericanweb.org

MAYBURRITOVILLE

- Email your stories & photos: mayburrito@goofbuster.com
- My columns online: PacificaTribune.com, WanderingAndWondering.com
- Antidisestablishmentarianism: PacificaRiptide.com