

## Wandering & Wondering



John Maybury

### BERMUDA TRIANGLE

West Manor Drive's crosswalk curse continues with the latest serious traffic accident, which left pedestrian Cal Hinton, Pacifica City Councilman, with a broken leg, and Camelot Fish and Chips with a huge SUV through its front window. We are reminded of previous horrors at or near the same site. Last year a speeding car hit and seriously injured two pedestrians in the crosswalk in front of Camelot. And some years ago, another runaway car crashed into Camelot's storefront, another car did the same to Tam's Chinese Restaurant on the other side of the street, at the other end of the same cursed crosswalk, and yet another car did the same to Seavue Tire and Brake next door to Camelot. What is it about that hot zone that has seen so much mayhem, and what does it portend for this busy intersection that is about to add hundreds more cars and pedestrians with the coming of the new Walgreens drugstore?

### HAULS OF BIODIESEL

"All of the trucks at my company, San Francisco Recycling and Disposal, have been running on biodiesel for months. Every truck in San Francisco that picks up garbage is also running on biodiesel. All of our companies in San Mateo run on biodiesel. All debris box trucks operated by Norcal Waste Systems of San Mateo County run on alternative fuel (either liquefied natural gas or biodiesel). The biodiesel is B-20, a blended fuel including 20 percent biodiesel made from vegetable oil and 80 percent low-sulfur diesel. Stricter environmental standards for diesel fuels, improved engine technologies, catalytic converters, and alternative fuels all combine to reduce truck emissions. Because we use alternative fuels, equip our trucks with superior catalytic converters, and maintain our fleet in good condition, the overall emissions will measure well below legal limits." (Larry DeMartini, Pacifica)

### RUNAWAY SATELLITE

Malfunctioning spy satellite USA 193 has been in the news lately because of expectations that it will reenter Earth's atmosphere in March and turn into a spectacular fireball. Reentry has not yet begun, but sky watchers are already noticing the satellite as it zips over Europe and the United States shining as brightly

as a first or second magnitude star. Typical photos are shown on [spaceweather.com](http://spaceweather.com). In fact, USA 193 may never reenter, at least not in one piece. The Pentagon has announced it will attempt to blast the satellite with a missile before its orbit decays. This would lessen the chances of dangerous satellite debris and fuel reaching the ground while increasing the population of space junk in low-Earth orbit. Would you like to see USA 193 with your own eyes? It is about to make a series of evening appearances over many U.S. towns and cities, beginning this weekend and continuing until the Pentagon intervenes. Flyby timetables may be found at [heavens-above.com](http://heavens-above.com). You can receive telephone and email alerts when the satellite is about to fly over your backyard by subscribing to [spaceweatherphone.com](http://spaceweatherphone.com)

### ENVIRO LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

Save Our Shores will be re-establishing a presence in Half Moon Bay this spring by holding an ocean leadership conference in mid-March at the Harbor House in Pillar Point Harbor with hopes of providing support and inspiration to Coastside communities, as well as rallying motivated volunteers in the area to become SOS' voice on marine conservation. If you or anyone you know is interested in

helping out or participating, please contact Chris Reeves at 831-462-5660, extension 5#, or email [conference@saveourshores.org](mailto:conference@saveourshores.org).

### EARN AMTRAK MILES

Earn Amtrak Guest Reward miles with a new Chase Master Card. (This message brought to you by the green guy at Dave and Lou's service station.)

### OBAMA CALLS

Barack Obama's Northern California headquarters in Oakland remain open through the end of February to make phone calls to voters in Texas, Ohio, and other critical states. The turnout thus far has been amazing. Last week, they made thousands of calls to help secure Barack's landslide victory in Washington State. Please call if you are planning to come to the Oakland office (510-268-1008). They open daily at 9 a.m. and close between 7 p.m. and 9 p.m., depending on the time zone of the states they are calling. Bring your cell phone and charger! If you cannot come to the office, please email [bradforobama@gmail.com](mailto:bradforobama@gmail.com) to make calls from home (using Build The Hope online calling tool). Obama for America, 436 14th Street at Broadway, Third Floor, downtown Oakland near 12th Street BART station and AC Transit.

### DEAR IRS

"Enclosed you will find my 2008

tax return showing that I owe \$3,407.00 in taxes. Please note the attached article from the USA Today newspaper; dated 12 November, wherein you will see the Pentagon (Department of Defense) is paying \$171.50 per hammer and NASA has paid \$600.00 per toilet seat. I am enclosing four (4) toilet seats (valued @ \$2,400) and six (6) hammers valued @ \$1,029), which I secured at Home Depot, bringing my total remittance to \$3,429.00. Please apply the overpayment of \$22.00 to the "Presidential Election Fund," as noted on my return. You can do this inexpensively by sending them one 1.5" Phillips Head screw (see aforementioned article from USA Today newspaper detailing how H.U.D. pays \$22.00 each for 1.5" Phillips Head Screws). One screw is enclosed for your convenience. It has been a pleasure to pay my tax bill this year, and I look forward to paying it again next year." (A Satisfied Taxpayer)

### CITIES OF LIGHT

"Cities of Light: The Rise and Fall of Islamic Spain" on DVD or on demand in your digital TV menu. This beautiful PBS documentary tells the history of Islam, Judaism, and Christianity as the three Abrahamic religions and cultures collided and coexisted at different times in Spain, creating some of the world's finest art and architecture, but also some of the world's worst

examples of cruelty and oppression.

### FEED THE BIRDS

Feeding birds in your backyard helps them thrive, especially important for the females' spring breeding season. Add unsalted peanuts to the mix. U.S. and U.K. bird lovers put out half a million tons of bird seed a year. (Earthweek)

### SWAMI SEZ

"A criminal is a person with predatory instincts without sufficient capital to form a corporation." (Clarence Darrow)

### SITeseer

- Human-animal bonding: [therapypets.org](http://therapypets.org)
- L.A. school cafeteria recipe for coffee cake: [chowhound.com](http://chowhound.com)
- Media jobs: [creativecircle.com](http://creativecircle.com)
- Boy wonder: [icallelk.com](http://icallelk.com)
- Old Faithful cam: [nps.gov/yell](http://nps.gov/yell) (see photos and multimedia)
- Clear out the spam: [spamihilator.com](http://spamihilator.com)

### MAYBURRITOVILLE

- Email your stories & photos: [mayburrito@goofbuster.com](mailto:mayburrito@goofbuster.com)
- My columns online: [PacificaTribune.com](http://PacificaTribune.com), [WanderingAndWondering.com](http://WanderingAndWondering.com)
- Wild and crazy Web site fun: [PacificaRiptide.com](http://PacificaRiptide.com)