

Wandering & Wondering



John Maybury

WELCOME

This column is for readers of all races, religions, political persuasions, socioeconomic classes, nationalities, and haircuts. (Hey, some of my best friends are Republicans.) I welcome refugees from defunct columns and even people who claim they don't (or won't) read this column. (And I know who you are. I see you sneaking peeks at "Wandering and Wondering" on the newsstand. C'mon, support your local newspaper, buy the darn Tribune anyway.) I especially welcome readers who complain that my column is evil. I challenge my critics to come up with column items that are not evil. Yeah, baby, sock it to me. Who loves ya? Juan Mayburrito, that's who! Bringing you yellow journalism at its best since the last century.

FOLLOW THE MONEY

For some time now, my colleague Lionel Emde has been writing in these pages and on PacificaRiptide.com about "funny" finances at Coastside Scavenger. Check out his excellent investiga-

tive reporting on this and other local issues (he also has written columns on Riptide and in the Tribune about the foreclosure crisis, land use and development, real estate shenanigans, flawed traffic studies, the Walgreens drugstore "plan," the biodiesel plant proposal, and the water district budget, among other things).

THE HILLS ARE ALIVE

- 2:05 p.m. A caller from the 13000 block of Towhee Court reported hearing screaming and the sound of glass breaking. A Lake Wildwood security guard reported two women were fighting over a dog.

- 6:03 p.m. A caller from the 200 block of North School Street reported a squirrel was running around and around in circles for over an hour. The caller was worried the squirrel might be rabid. An Animal Control officer advised police it is breeding season for squirrels, which would explain the behavior.

- 8:35 p.m. A caller from Lakeshore North reported a drunk driver on a golf cart. The CHP responded and three people ran away.

- 8:55 p.m. A caller from the 100 block of Maryland Drive reported a strong odor of marijuana was coming from somewhere in the neighborhood.

(Lyn Lossow spotted these in the cop log, Nevada City/Grass Valley Union, April 29)

FLORIDA CAN'T HANG

"Senate lawmakers in Florida have voted to ban the fake bull testicles that dangle from the trailer hitches of many trucks and cars throughout the state. Republican Sen. Cary Baker, a gun shop owner from Eustis, Florida, called the adornments offensive and proposed the ban. Motorists would be fined \$60 for displaying the novelty items, which are known by brand names like 'Truck Nutz' and resemble the south end of a bull moving north." (Associated Press)

TALL SHIPS

July 23-27: The Festival of Sail. Tall Ships from all over the world sail under the Golden Gate Bridge and dock for one week on the waterfront. Open to the public. Nautical attractions celebrating the Bay Area's maritime past, present, and future. Lots of activities for families and kids. Educational programs for all. Music, food, and entertainment. Sponsor S.F. Maritime National Park Association maintains the Maritime Museum and Maritime Park, including Balclutha and other historic ships docked on Jefferson Street. The festival needs 1,500 volunteers: maritime.org.

NO SPRAY

"I want to thank you for your assistance in alerting people through your column and online postings on Pacifica Riptide about the light

brown apple moth (LBAM) aerial spraying. As a result, a number of people have called me and expressed their very real personal and environmental health concerns. A Pacifica anti-spray resolution was passed at a recent City Council meeting. I spoke there, and two women, Sharon and Ashley, initiated actions that led to increased public scrutiny and the eventual resolution being passed. The California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) rep advised he was not certain about what parts of Pacifica could or would be sprayed. Excuse me, but shouldn't the state's expert coming to address community spraying concerns at least have been prepared to answer that most basic of questions? Also, a comment made by Councilwoman Julie Lancelle was very disconcerting. She stated that she had received an e-mail from the San Mateo County Department of Public Health urging her to take no action on the resolution! Local pediatrician Harvard Robbins wrote a very compelling and reasoned letter expressing his opposition to aerial spraying, which was read by Sharon/Ashley on his behalf. Given that aerial spraying would occur from 8 p.m. to 5 a.m., any foggy conditions would ensure the spray remained suspended in the air far longer—and this in an area with the nation's highest pediatric asthma and breast cancer rates. By the way, the State of California

posted a non-career position for LBAM program coordinator. The term of the job is two years with the potential for noncompetitive renewals for additional years! I found it shocking that the approximately 645 adverse health impact reports from Santa Cruz area residents were dismissed out of hand as unrelated to the spraying. The state issued a FONSI (Finding of No Significant Impact) suggesting there was no correlation between the alleged health impacts and the spraying. Consider how many possible adverse impacts were NOT reported due to unfamiliarity with the reporting process or citizen apathy. Suffice it to say, I am a bit cynical about the proposed EIR/EIS and health studies being conducted in an impartial and unbiased manner by any state-affiliated department or contracted firm. One thing is clear. The state intends to release the biochemical pesticide via 10 PM-sized plastic capsules (easily ingested deep into the lungs and for which Clean Air Act air quality thresholds exist) for a 60-day timed release, double the 30-day release used in Santa Cruz, suggesting it will be even more concentrated. The CDFA rep claimed it was not an agricultural pesticide, but it is and it has a Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) that notes toxicity to aquatic environments and respiratory hazards for children and the elderly. He consistently referred to

it as a pheromone-based spray (true, except that ignores the inert spray ingredients, which the manufacturer Suterra initially refused to disclose and subsequently changed). He also patronized those in Council Chambers by alluding to its not allowing the moths to find and romance one another. Any city sprayed will be saturated with this agricultural pesticide. Outdoor furniture, toddler toys, cars, boats, RVs, our restored riparian wetlands will be saturated. Try as we may, it will get into our houses by foot traffic or perhaps the footpads of your animals. "The spray that keeps on giving!" That many Pacifica residents are unaware of (or resigned to) being sprayed really shocks me." (Patrick Langsjoen)

SWAMI SEZ

"Say hi to us on the street!" (Pacifica Police Officers Association)

MAYBURRITOVILLE

- Breaking news every day: pacificariptide.com
- Email your stories & photos: mayburrito@goofbuster.com
- My columns online: pacificatribune.com, wanderingandwondering.com