

Wandering & Wondering



John Maybury

CIVILITY

New language has appeared on the City Council agenda under Oral Communications. It cites Pacifica Municipal Code, Title 2, Chapter 1, Section 2-1.118 and says that public speakers must address the whole council, not individual members, and that if speakers are impertinent, slanderous, profane, or boisterous, they will be warned and if they do not comply, they will be barred from the meeting.

MILITARY-INDUSTRIAL COMPLEX

President of the United States (and former General of the Army) Dwight D. Eisenhower was the first person to use the term “military-industrial complex.” He referred to it in his Farewell Address to the Nation on January 17, 1961: “A vital element in keeping the peace is our military establishment. Our

arms must be mighty, ready for instant action, so that no potential aggressor may be tempted to risk his own destruction.... This conjunction of an immense military establishment and a large arms industry is new in the American experience. The total influence—economic, political, even spiritual—is felt in every city, every statehouse, every office of the federal government. We recognize the imperative need for this development. Yet we must not fail to comprehend its grave implications. Our toil, resources and livelihood are all involved; so is the very structure of our society. In the councils of government, we must guard against the acquisition of unwarranted influence, whether sought or unsought, by the military-industrial complex. The potential for the disastrous rise of misplaced power exists and will persist. We must never let the weight of this combination endanger our liberties or democratic processes. We should take nothing for granted. Only an alert and knowledgeable citizenry can compel the proper meshing of the huge industrial and military machinery of defense with our peaceful methods and goals so that security and liberty may prosper together.” (In the penultimate draft of the address, Eisenhower initially used the term military-industrial-congressional complex, and thus indicated the essential role that the U.S.

Congress plays in the propagation of the military industry. But it is said that the president chose to strike the word “congressional” to placate members of the legislative branch of the federal government. The author of the term was Eisenhower’s speechwriter Malcolm Moos.)

EMAIL ETIQUETTE

“Question: When I e-mail photos, often they’re very large files—3 MB or more—and recipients sometimes complain that the photos take a long time to download and open. How can I resize photos to make them more e-mail friendly? Answer: Resizing photos to send as attachments is pretty easy using Outlook, Outlook Express or Windows Mail, which replaced Outlook Express in Windows Vista. Simply open the folder on the hard drive that contains the photo you want to send, right-click its name or thumbnail image, point to Send To and click Mail Recipient. A dialog box will open with options for reducing the file size of the photo (or photos, if you’ve selected more than one). Upon resizing, your e-mail program will open a new message window with the photo already attached.” (Judith Tugendreich forwarded this suggestion from the San Francisco Chronicle. Note that Mac users have the advantage of using iPhoto for sizing and sending pictures. Also, if your email

program does not allow you to highlight and delete previous recipients, copy and paste the forward into a new, clean form.)

CRACKDOWN ON ILLEGAL FIREWORKS

Pacifica City Council recently passed a revised set of ordinances governing sale and use of legal fireworks (commonly known as “Safe & Sane”) and stiffening penalties for illegal fireworks. The new fine for using illegal fireworks is “a misdemeanor and shall be punishable by a fine not exceeding \$1,000 and/or 6 months in jail.” The newly revised laws are the work of the Fireworks Task Force assisted by city staff. (Full disclosure: This writer is a member of the task force.) Pacifica citizens and fireworks industry representatives participated in a series of meetings, with Pacifica Police Chief Jim Saunders acting as chair/facilitator/city liaison. Pacifica police, firefighters, and additional law enforcement will be out on the streets in record numbers for the Fourth of July holiday weekend, enforcing the new law. The task force, appointed by City Council to deal with increasingly out-of-control “celebrations” of July 4th, represents a last-ditch effort to prevent loss of life and property damage caused by the dangerous combina-

tion of pyrotechnics and alcohol. The extent of the problem was detailed in a report written by Pacifica Police about enforcement during the July 4, 2007 holiday: “...we have seen normal law-abiding citizens use alcohol, handle dangerous explosives and then turn on the police officers when they try to intervene. In fact, supervisors have ordered officers out of a particular area because we could not safely enter and deal with the violator(s). ...All in all we were overwhelmed with the calls for service, the number of ‘hot spots’ and the lack of cooperation by the citizens. This was one of the worst years I have experienced in Pacifica in the 26 years I have been on the police department.” Nonprofit community groups make money selling legal fireworks every year, and their voice on the task force was ably represented by Terra Nova football coach Bill Gray. Gray revealed that over time his group has been able to reduce fireworks income to 25 percent of total fundraising revenues, but that he and others have not been able to come up with a substitute for the present amount generated by fireworks sales. Phone in tips about illegal fireworks to Pacifica Police non-emergency numbers 650-738-7314 or 650-738-7312. During the July 4th holiday weekend, the city Web site might be a faster way to

notify police. Go to cityofpacifica.org and look under the “Department” heading. Click “Police” in the left column under “Contact Information,” then click “Online Tip Form.” (Lionel Emde, PacificaRiptide.com)

DESPERATE STRAITS

A second polar bear has swum the 200 miles of open ocean from Greenland to Iceland. Both bears have been shot and killed on arrival, supposedly to protect tourists and journalists who gathered on the shore to see the bears. How tragic that the bears escape their melting homeland (due to human-caused global warming) only to be killed by humans elsewhere. (Earthweek)

SWAMI SEZ

“A pirate does not ask for directions. He relies only on his gut feeling, a compass, or a treasure map.” (Pirate Law #1)

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