

## Wandering & Wondering



**John Maybury**

### ANNUAL ARMAGEDDON

I sympathize with our overwhelmed, understaffed police and fire departments, which tried to cope with Fourth of July scofflaws setting off illegal fireworks. The \$1,000 fine apparently was little deterrent. I phoned and emailed several reports of illegal fireworks, but it didn't seem to do any good. Were any tickets written? Was anyone cited? I thank Lionel Emde and the other fireworks task force members for their hard work to prevent this annual Armageddon, but clearly it was not enough. I don't know what the answer is. Maybe Deadeye Dick Cheney could come here next year and supervise our fiasco with his blunderbuss.

### UNCIVIL LIBERTIES

Pacifica City Council has been the scene recently of angry outbursts at the public communications podium, leading to police action to restore order. PCT Channel 26 videos of the shenanigans have appeared on

YouTube, and just as quickly disappeared when the Google-owned online video site apparently received complaints about the content. A video showing the June 23 council meeting disturbance still is posted on PacificaRiptide.com via a link to Larry Rosenstein's Web site. Also on Riptide are YouTube videos of other city councils' meltdowns: Scranton, Pennsylvania; Morro Bay and Hawthorne, California; and Lithonia, Georgia.

### COUNTERPUNCHER

Developer R. Donahue (Don) Peebles, owner of Rockaway Quarry, appeared June 30 on Donny Deutsch's CNBC cable show "The Big Idea" in a segment called "The Art of the Comeback." Peebles was one of several guests who talked about their biggest failures or defeats and how they recovered or retaliated. Describing his rise and fall as a housing mogul under now-disgraced former Washington, D.C. Mayor Marion Barry, Peebles told how he left town for Miami, where he bounced back as a major African American hotel and resort developer now worth \$4 billion. "They underestimated me," Peebles said of his detractors. "They didn't see me coming." He also said "the most dangerous fighter is the counterpuncher." Peebles is the author of *The Peebles Principles* and is at work on a new book about getting rich through real estate. See [bigidea.cnbc.com](http://bigidea.cnbc.com)'s archives for Peebles' autobiographical note.

### POWER OF THREE

Three favorite threesomes in my neighborhood: a front yard with two pugs and a calico cat (the owner says the cat rules the roost), a driveway containing three gas-sipping Japanese-make cars (Subaru, Honda, Toyota), and three calling birds (Swainson's thrushes that sing in three tones, I think).

### CIRCLE LINE

SamTrans buses circle Linda Mar on weekends about every two hours, counterclockwise on Saturdays, clockwise on Sundays. Use this great transit service to cut down on your fuel consumption on the weekend. And remember this: Use 'em or lose 'em.

### PARK MALL MESS

On June 21, Pacifica Riptide posted pictures of trash behind the shopping center at Terra Nova and Oddstad ("The Shame of Park Mall"). Agent 99 read the item and called Chris Porter at Coastside Scavenger, who dispatched a crew to clean up the mess. Matt at Gearhead Bikes (the closest tenant) says littering in the alley is an ongoing problem despite a posted warning sign and threat of fines. Last week, someone dumped used tires there. Porter says Coastside will start charging the mall for cleanups. Coastside investigates litter to find guilty parties' names and addresses for follow-up. Porter advises disposing of unwanted items for free at the

Palmetto recycling facility, open 51 hours a week.

### GLOBAL CRIMINALS

"McMafia by Misha Glenny lays out the ever more intimate relationship between global criminals and governments, including our own. If you ever wondered why a major governmental decision seemed to go against all reason and morality, this book explains the process. It's not hopeful." (Jim LeCuyer)

### PRESIDIO TOURS

Take a free tour of the Presidio Main Post. Learn about changes the Trust is proposing to the National Historic Landmark District and understand the size and scale of these changes. Every Wednesday and Sunday, 2 to 3:30 p.m. through July 30. Meet at Presidio Officer's Club (no reservation needed). Wear multiple layers and comfortable walking shoes. Plan to attend and speak out at the Public Meeting, July 14, 6:30 p.m., Presidio Officers Club.

### OCEAN BEACH VISION

Ocean Beach Vision Council Town Hall Meeting meets on Thursday, July 10, from 6 to 8 p.m. to discuss goals. The purpose of OBVC is to build a long-term strategy to develop the unique character of Ocean Beach. Through a combination of technical work and public meetings, OBVC will propose environmentally sustainable

alternatives for Ocean Beach, and by next year will present a draft master plan outlining a vision for Ocean Beach. The meeting is at the San Francisco Zoo in the Osher Great Hall in the Lurie Education Center. (Jake Sigg, Nature News)

### COURAGE TO RESIST

Vigil at Canadian Consulate, Wednesday, July 9, noon to 1 p.m., 580 California Street, San Francisco. Sponsored by Courage to Resist. Info: Adam Seibert, 510-488-3559, [courage@riseup.net](mailto:courage@riseup.net). Background: On June 3, the Canadian Parliament passed a historic motion to officially welcome war resisters! But it now appears that the Conservative government may disregard the motion. Iraq combat veteran turned courageous war resister, 25-year-old Sgt. Corey Glass of the Indiana National Guard still is scheduled for deportation July 10. Courage to Resist will ask that the Canadian government respect the democratic decision of Parliament, the demonstrated opinion of the Canadian citizenry, the view of the United Nations, and millions of Americans, by immediately implementing the motion and cease deportation proceedings against Corey Glass and other current and future war resisters.

### VIAGRA MELON

Watermelon yields Viagra-like effects. Watermelon contains an ingredient called citrulline that can trigger production of a compound that helps

relax the body's blood vessels, similar to what happens when a man takes Viagra, said scientists in Texas, one of the nation's top producers of the seedless variety. Watermelon is a diuretic and was a homeopathic treatment for kidney patients before dialysis became widespread. The relationship between citrulline and arginine might also prove helpful to those who are obese or suffer from type-2 diabetes. The beneficial effects—among them the ability to relax blood vessels, much like Viagra does—are beginning to be revealed in research. Citrulline is present in other cucurbits, like cucumbers and cantaloupe, at very low levels, and in the milk protein casein. (Betsy Blaney, Associated Press)

### SWAMI SEZ

"Now it's every Williams for herself." (Venus Williams talking to reporters at Wimbledon about competing against her sister Serena)

### MAYBURRITOVILLE

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