

Wandering & Wondering



John Maybury

Developer Don

Late at night, Private Eye Joe Fogg surfs the Internet for juicy items about Pacifica's latest suitor, Miami developer R. Donahue Peebles. Peebles got his first break in real estate working for Washington, D.C. mayor Marion Barry. When Barry's political star imploded, Peebles quickly left town and took up wheeling and dealing in Miami. Now, he brings his road show to sleepy Pacifica and tries to sweet-talk this environmental hotbed into voting next year to approve his plans for a luxury hotel and million-dollar trophy homes in Rockaway Quarry. Judging from the public record, Peebles is a smart, tough negotiator who's used to getting his way, and who will not hesitate to pursue his interests in the halls of government and in the courts. You could look it up.

Begin the bangin'

Finally, the long-awaited San Pedro Creek fish passage restoration project has begun. Crews from

Power Engineering began laying pipe last week to divert the creek, while wranglers combed the banks for snakes and frogs. Biologists began removing steelhead from the affected area of the creek; the fish will be kept upstream and downstream of the 1,300-linear-foot work zone during the next two months before rainy season begins. Heavy equipment will clear and "grub" the channel, and remove the lower portion of the existing fish channel. After rough grading, a scraper and crawler will fine-grade the site. Public works director Scott Holmes says in a letter to Creekside residents and property owners: "After the design channel slope is achieved, a series of boulder step-pools will be constructed and log habitat structures and spawning gravel will be installed. At the top of the bank, an overhead watering system using impact sprinklers will be installed and all reshaped banks will be covered with coir fabric and/or straw mulch and replanted with native coastal riparian vegetation as outlined in the Project's revegetation plan. This phase of the Project will be completed by November 1, 2005." Native plants will be put in throughout the winter.

Humus, not hummus

Leaf mulch is one of the best soil conditioners on earth. Like compost, leaf mulch helps retain rainwater, lightens heavy soil, adds nutrients, and feeds all kinds of soil organisms. Learn about composting at a free workshop on Saturday, Sept. 10 from 11:30

a.m. to 1 p.m. at the main library on Hilton.

Sandwich scandal

Russ Bennion tells me our sorely missed meatball man Rod (remember Hot Rod's sandwich shop on Francisco?) now cooks for the S.F. Giants. Our loss, their gain. Rod's meatball subs put all others to shame, but the real deal-breaker was his outdoors-grilled Philly cheese-steaks, the wafting fragrance of which apparently drove a neighbor mad, causing him to complain to city hall, which closed down Rod's al fresco operation, effectively killing the business. Ironically, the neighbor then moved away. May he rot in hell, whoever he is.

Haiku Kitty

Glazed over wild eyes.
Bite smell drool writhing madly.
Catnip evoked bliss.

(Allison Weber)

"Here, kitty kitty."
You think, knave, this is the way
To address a queen?

(Renee Batti)

Tough Haiku Kitty.
Last seen on Harley chopper.
Heading for trouble.

(Kathleen Moylett)

You pet me, I purr.
To show much I love it,
I bite and scratch you!

(Barbara Moyce-Smith)

Toy mice, dancing yarn,
Meowing sounds. I'm convinced:
You're an idiot.

(Anon.)

Puddytat poem
Too good not to run, even though
it's not a haiku. Haiku is an unrhymed,
three-line verse of five, seven, and
five syllables.

I meow all day to my human,
Who can prattle but does not dis-
course cat.

She'll learn.

(Brenda McManus)

Chiller

Shirley Suhrer was trolling her personal account on the public library's Web site and found something called "My Reading History," which carried this Patriot Act warning: "Please be aware that if you elect to keep a Reading History, it may be subject to examination by law enforcement authorities without your permission."

Goldpanner alert

S.F. Chronicle outdoors columnist Tom Stienstra reveals the secret techniques of gold prospector Mario Marcoli: July 10 story archived at www.sfgate.com; TV show broadcast 6:30 p.m., Oct. 12, UPN/KBHK Channel 44 (Bay Area Cable 12).

For your convenience?

"In an effort to serve you better, we continually evaluate our products and pricing. Our pricing has not changed within the last ten years. So that we may continue to offer our valued customers a quality product for no additional charge, we have opted to reduce our check package quantity from 200 to 150 checks. This reduction will enable us to become more efficient as well as absorb the inflation of a price increase to you." (The Checkstore)

Jazzhounds

Saxman Jim Grantham, who performed at Sanchez Art Center last year, plays regular gigs in the East Bay, teaches music classes, publishes a fakebook, and for years has offered an online Jamlist for networking musicians and students (www.nightbirdmusic.com). Free orientation Sept. 7. Info: 510-271-7904, jim@nightbirdmusic.com

Swami Sez

"Sometimes it takes a long time to sound like yourself." (Miles Davis)

Mayburrito

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