

Wandering & Wondering



John Maybury

120/09

The millennium has arrived. The miracle has happened. This country has finally elected an African-American president, and to top it off, he is politically progressive, a body surfer, and a pickup basketball player. How cool is that! And best of all, he starts in a week. So go pinch yourself and stop holding your breath. The inauguration of Barack H. Obama comes appropriately one day after Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday. Celebrate good times!

PUBLIC SERVICE

President-elect Obama and former Secretary of State Colin Powell urge all Americans to get out and volunteer on the upcoming holiday weekend honoring Martin Luther King, Jr. Pacifica Beach Coalition and Environmental Family have answered the call and joined the nationwide work party with a beach cleanup (9 a.m.) and habitat restoration (10 a.m.) Saturday, January 17, in Linda Mar. Just show up with your gardening gloves and a bucket. Clark

Natwick and Ranger Mary Petrilli will show you the drill. You can pull ice plant, pick up litter, or plant native seedlings in the dunes. It's all about protecting Pacifica's snowy plovers, our own endangered bird species that struggles to survive on the beach here despite heavy traffic (people, dogs, and other creatures). Then on King's birthday itself, Monday, January 19, join GGNRA's volunteer crew from noon to 3 p.m. on Mori Point (behind Moose Lodge) to work on the trails and ponds within the national park right here in Pacifica. Call Cody Fyotek, Senior Volunteer Coordinator, Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy, 415-561-3077, for details on waivers, equipment, tasks, etc. Finally, in the true Lynn Adams/Ian Butler spirit, if you're not a big joiner or team player, just go out and tidy up your own favorite hiking trail, beach, or creek this weekend. Carry a plastic bag for the litter you pick up and pretend you're just out walkin' the dog.

KILLER ENCHILADAS

Joe Murillo's Green Enchilada is a hit. Mayor Julie Lancelle cut the ribbon at the mariachi-drenched grand opening celebration January 10, backed up by City Councilmen Jim Vreeland and Pete DeJarnatt. A happy crowd of well-wishers lined up inside the narrow galley space of the organic taqueria to order enchiladas, tamales, tacos, burritos, and other Mexican fare. The musicians played and sang on the sidewalk out front. If you're

jonesin' for rotisserie chicken a la Rockaway farmer's market, now you can get your chicken fix at Green Enchilada (Fulton Valley free range, 12 bucks).



PELICAN PROBLEMS

Are pelicans the new canaries? All along the West Coast, the giant fishing birds with the prehistoric profile have been falling ill from a mysterious disorder. Some rescued pelicans are being treated and released, but many more have landed sick in backyards, parking lots, and public highways from southern Oregon to Baja California. Scientists are racing to figure out exactly what the cause of the strange malady is. Theories include naturally occurring domoic acid, toxic runoff from last year's forest

fires, and drought/La Nina. Bird lovers admire pelicans as they glide just above breaking wavecrests in search of a meal. We hope the big birds survive this latest health threat, the first serious one since DDT almost wiped them out years ago.

AGITATOR DISRUPTS PEACE RALLY

January 6, as people gathered peacefully at Highway 1 and Linda Mar to protest the war in Gaza and Israel, an enraged motorist stopped in traffic and engaged in a shouting match with the demonstrators. Then he parked his car at the shopping center and returned to the scene, shouting and shoving, slightly injuring one of the demonstrators. When the agitated man ran through the parking lot, several demonstrators followed him to take his picture and hold him for police, who shortly came on the scene to question the man and several witnesses. No one pressed charges, so because police did not see the incident occur, they took down the man's information and released him. One bystander noted that as soon as the police detained him, his demeanor changed drastically, and he spoke calmly with police as if nothing had happened. But I had heard the man shouting and had seen him up close as he ran through the parking lot, his face and eyes full of hate and fear.



BATTER UP

Baseball comes to local cable television on Comcast channel 412. It's the MLB Network, with classic World Series games, interviews, analysis, winter trades, etc. Can't wait for Opening Day? Tune in to 412 now.



INNER EDIROT

Rockets were flying and people were dying in Gaza and Israel, but the front-page lead story of the San Francisco Chronicle on January 5 was about the city's massage parlor inspectors. And to top it off, the story headline was wrong: "ambiguous attitudes" should have been "ambivalent attitudes." Grrr!

FRESH & EASY STALL

In a San Mateo County Times news story on December 24, a list of proposed Fresh & Easy grocery stores in the Bay Area did not list Pacifica as a potential location. Tesco's expansion into

Northern California has stalled. A company spokesman said: "All the store openings have been delayed." Repeated phone calls to the reporter for further information were not returned. (Lionel Emde, PacificaRiptide.com)

VEGAWATT

Finz seafood restaurant in Dedham, Massachusetts is trying out the so-called Vegawatt invention that converts deep-fryer grease into electricity to power the restaurant's equipment and lights. (Wired.com)

TURN IT OFF

"We appreciate your business, but we don't need to know your business. For prompt service, please hang up your cell phone or move to the end of the line." (sign in Providence, Rhode Island bakery)

SITSEER

- Last chance to throw shoes at Bush: aksaler.com/game.htm
- Pacifcan John Flinn's post-Chronicle travel plans: worldhum.com

SWAMI SEZ

"When we try to pick out anything by itself, we find it hitched to everything else in the universe." (John Muir)

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