

Wandering & Wondering

John Maybury



TUNNEL OF LOVE

Herb Caen would have loved this item, as reported in the San Francisco Chronicle (November 4). BART train operator Calvin Peter Tom, 49, of Brentwood is wanted by police for propositioning a woman passenger he had invited into the cab of his train as it raced through the tunnel between Oakland and Orinda. The woman says Tom whispered in the dark that he wanted to fondle her breasts, but when she refused and attempted to leave, he “temporarily” blocked her way out of the cab, then let her leave the train at the Orinda station. As of press time, there was a warrant out for Tom.

GREEN GARBAGE

Waste Management of San Francisco has installed a system at Altamont landfill to capture escaping methane gas from rotting garbage and turn it into liquid gas to run its garbage trucks. This has the double benefit of

keeping greenhouse gas out of the environment while powering the fleet with cheap, clean, locally produced fuel. Let’s hope Pacifica’s new trash hauler goes green, too!

DOG FLU

So far, canine influenza has been confined to animal shelters, day care, and kennels. With its spread, it may end up hitting dog parks, where some dogs have been exposed during kenneling. It is a nose-to-nose and air-borne disease. This came from a veterinarian at Southeastern Guide Dogs in Florida: “Many of you may have heard about a fairly newly discovered, highly contagious, and sometimes fatal disease in dogs called canine influenza. This virus causes upper-respiratory problems similar to kennel cough but then progresses to severe pneumonia. A vaccine was formulated and made available in May of this year. Since we are in the state

where this disease was first identified and since we have a high population density of dogs from multiple states, we are vulnerable to an outbreak unless we protect our dogs. A new requirement for all dogs coming into the kennels or administration building will be to have them vaccinated against canine influenza. The vaccination series requires that an initial vaccine be given, with a booster 2-4 weeks later and yearly boosters thereafter.” (If you are a puppy raiser, breeder host, or dog owner, talk to your vet about canine influenza. See Dr. Crawford FAQs, University of Florida, Department of Veterinary Medicine, vetmed.ufl.edu)

CHA-CHING

A recent study by the National Parks Conservation Association asked how much revenue the national parks in California contribute to local communities. The answer is in the millions, from \$3 million at Pinnacles National Monument to \$83 million at Point Reyes National Seashore. Endorsed by dozens of California businesses and chambers of commerce, the study infers that Pacifica would enjoy, conservatively, \$7 million a year. (See National Treasures as Economic Engines—The

Economic Impact of Visitor Spending in California’s National Parks at npca.org.) You also can download the report from PacificaRiptide.com.

ECHOING GREEN

Each year, Echoing Green awards 12 to 15 two-year fellowships to social entrepreneurs. Fellows receive seed funding and technical support to turn their innovative ideas into sustainable social change organizations. Echoing Green seeks individuals or partnerships (organizations led by two people) with innovative solutions to significant social problems; strategies to create high-impact, sustainable change in people’s lives; and the ability to grow and lead a new organization. The application process is open to citizens of all nationalities working in any country. Applicants must be 18 years of age or older, and must have sufficient English fluency to participate in interviews and Echoing Green events. Organizations must be the original idea of the applicant, and must be independent and autonomous. (Organizations cannot be considered independent or autonomous if they are started under the direction of an existing organization.) Organizations must be in a start-up phase. To

be considered a start-up, the applicant may have been running the organization full-time for approximately two years, and Echoing Green’s financial support should qualify it as a major/primary early funder. Applicants who have only worked on their organization on a part-time basis or have yet to start an organization are generally considered eligible. Applicants must make a full-time commitment to the organization’s development. Fellows receive up to \$90,000 (\$60,000 for individuals and \$90,000 for partnerships of two people) in seed funding over two years. Visit echoing-green.org for complete eligibility information, application materials, and profiles of fellows and their projects. The deadline to apply is December 2.

SWAMI SEZ

“Cats seem to go on the principle that it never does any harm to ask for what you want.” (Joseph Wood Krutch)

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