

Wandering & Wondering



John Maybury



IRISHMAN O'BAMA

"Hello, John: It was the most inspiring achievement! I've been involved in politics since I was 12 here in Ireland. It is a joy to see this happen. Real hope for the world. A real chance to embrace the world and a world overjoyed to embrace America. The energy for Obama is amazing! The Irish are so happy. Can't wait to get to Washington in January to play the Irish American Democrats Inauguration Party! Regards, Ger." (Gerard Corrigan of The Corrigan Brothers, aka Hardy Drew and the Nancy Boys, Limerick, Ireland. Their song "There's No One As Irish As Barack O'Bama" is all over YouTube.)

SF POOH-POOHS R

On Election Day, San Francisco voters flushed their world-famous sewer renaming plan down the toilet. Proposition R to rename the city water treatment plant at Ocean Beach after lame-duck President George W. Bush went down the

tubes. Fans of Prop R here in Pacifica had been considering a similar movement to change the name of our sewer, but the latest poop on that idea is that it has been eliminated. And that's enough of that!



BIOFUELBOX

Biofuelbox turns brown sludge biosolids from wastewater treatment plants into biodiesel fuel. Biofuelbox supplies for free the "refinery" (its words), a 20-foot-long container, and charges a nominal fee to the municipality for the fuel it produces. Biofuelbox is portable and expandable. Todd Bray has passed this suggestion along to the city. See biofuelbox.com.

BEER FOREVER

"Finally! I knew all along I'd live to be a thousand," exults Jim Wagner, scanning this Discovery Channel news item: "Scientists at Rice University have created beer that could extend your life. BioBeer, as it's called, has three genes spliced into special brewer's yeast that produce resveratrol, the chemical in red wine that is thought to protect against diabetes, cancer, Alzheimer's and other age-related conditions... But don't expect to swill this brew soon... proving that a person's life could be extended or their diabetes controlled through a combination of water, yeast, hops, malted grains and synthetic biology wasn't the goal of the project; it was just to prove that it was possible."

PACIFICAM

PacificaRiptide.com now has two Live Cameras (search Google in

upper-right sidebar), capturing views of Pacifica in real time, one from Pedro Point looking north across Linda Mar beach, the other from Longview Park looking south along the coastline.



SEA LION BOWL

"I am seeking at least 60 volunteers for the 2009 Northern California Regional Ocean Sciences Bowl or Sea Lion Bowl (formerly Otter Bowl), to be held at San Francisco State University on Saturday, February 21. The Sea Lion Bowl is an academic high school competition focused on all disciplines of ocean sciences. Sixteen teams will compete for the chance to go on to the National Finals in Washington, D.C. in April. The National Ocean Sciences Bowl's mission is to enrich science teaching and learning across the United States through a high-profile national competition that increases high school students' knowledge of the oceans and enhances public understanding and stewardship of the oceans. Students who participate are highly motivated and interested in science. Training sessions begin December 9. If you would like to get involved, please contact me." (Erin Blackwood, M.Ed., Outreach Coordinator & Sea Lion Bowl Coordinator, Romberg Tiburon Center for Environmental Studies, 415-338-3757 office, 415-816-0001 cell)

OBAMA PRAYER

Barack atah Illinois, Elohenu Melech Ha'olam, Boray P'ri Ha-electoral Landslide. Amen! (Fran Herman)

TEACHER HOUSING

"New teachers are often attracted to Coastside schools because of their small-town atmosphere and proximity to nature. But they don't always stay long, mostly because of the area's high cost of living. In his 10 years on the Pacifica School District Board of Trustees, Mike O'Neill has seen it happen too many times. Unable to compete for teachers with school districts in wealthier parts of San Mateo County, O'Neill and his fellow board members are devising a plan to help them afford life in Pacifica without a giant pay hike... The idea they came up with is remarkable for its simplicity: Build affordable housing for teachers at the site of a former school. Give teachers a chance to work where they live, cut down on their commutes and allow them to put down roots in Pacifica." (Julia Scott, San Mateo County Times, November 11)

TANOAK

If linking botany, American history, and political economics sounds fun, this is the workshop for you! Jepson Herbarium presents *Lithocarpus densiflorus*: An Environmental History of Tanoak, November 23 (daylong event), instructor Frederica Bowcutt of Evergreen State College, Valley Life Sciences Building, UC Berkeley. Course fee \$85/\$110 (Friends of Jepson Herbarium members/nonmembers). Information/registration: Anna Larsen, alarsen@berkeley.edu.

WORLD MUSIC

Door Dog Music, in association with The Jewish Community Center of San Francisco, the Asian Art Museum, SOTA, Thoreau Center, Kitka, and Paintbrush Diplomacy, presents the Ninth Annual San Francisco World Music Festival through November 23. (Concert/ticket info: sfworldmusicfestival.org)

MANORGATE

"I went through that Manor Mess intersection today, and as I turned south, I thought of the widening of the overcrossing to six lanes. It looks like people haven't considered the outcome of feeding three lanes (in each direction) into one lane (going in both directions). Just wait till Walgreens opens there." (Bob Pilgrim, PacificaRiptide.com)

FIT COPS

The Pacifica Police Department now requires one hour of paid exercise time per shift. "I wish I could get paid for working out," jokes Bruce Hallman on PacificaRiptide.com. "But seriously, I think physical fitness is a good idea, probably paying for itself in health care dollars saved on heart attacks."



NO SHOOT, SHERLOCK

I asked arborist Ian Butler what to make of this odd-looking tree in Yachats, Oregon (see my accompanying photo). Ian replied: "Elementary, my dear Watson. The original tree was cut down, and after it started to decay, a seed grew out of the top of it. The murder weapon was a large saw, possibly gas-powered."

DEPRESSION

Paul Krugman's recent New York Times column talks about Depression economics, and the Wall Street Journal predictably blames it on the victim, babbling about "The Barack Market" as if the president-elect had

something to do with Wall Street's woes. Give me a break! Our current economic crisis is clearly a panic sell-off by greedheads who know the gravy train is on its way to the big roundhouse in the sky, and market regulation with government oversight is coming back to save the day. Rupert Murdoch's wretched Republican rag would love to hang it all on Obama, but I think the American people know better. They know this mess is the result of eight years (nay, 28 years) of free-market mayhem: Reaganomics devolving into Bushonomics. Consider this online comment from Paul Craig Roberts in his article "Economic Crisis Is Beyond The Reach Of Traditional Solutions": "By most accounts, the U.S. economy is in serious trouble. Robert Reich, an adviser to President-Elect Obama, calls it a 'mini-depression,' and that designation might be optimistic. Russian economist Mikhail Khazin says that the U.S. will soon face a second 'Great Depression.' It is possible that even Khazin is optimistic."

INNER EDIROT

"Found a good one in the Trib this a.m. Back page re: Trail. 'That original vision hit a stag...' instead of snag. Very punny! Haha! Have a good day!" (Susan Herring)

SWAMI SEZ

"You only live once, but if you do it right, once is enough." (Mae West)

MAYBURRITOVILLE

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