

**Wandering
&
Wondering**



John Maybury

GOP JUICE

“Early donors to the proposed ballot initiative that would change how California’s 55 electoral votes are divvied up in the race for the White House, according to a report filed with state election officials [include]... Glen Holden, an insurance investor and former ambassador to Jamaica under the first President George Bush; Duane Roberts, an Orange County businessman who’s also given money this year to GOP presidential contenders Rudy Giuliani, Mitt Romney, and John McCain; money manager Robert Day, listed on Forbes’ 2006 list of ‘The World’s Richest People’; venture capitalist Floyd Kvamme, appointed by President George W. Bush in 2001 as co-chair of the President’s Council of Advisors on Science and Technology; Jerrold Perenchio, former CEO of Univision who’s also been a financial backer of

Governor Schwarzenegger; and Bill Leonard, an elected member of the California Board of Equalization and former Assembly GOP leader. And as publicly reported before, seed money has also been contributed by U.S. Rep. Darrell Issa (R-Vista) from both his own checkbook (\$50,000) and from his campaign account (\$9,500). The single largest contribution so far to the campaign known as California Counts: \$80,000 from the California Republican Party.” (kqed.org, November 6)

ATTACK ON THE ENVIRONMENT

“California’s environment is under attack again from the “property rights” crowd. Last year, we successfully fought off a statewide ballot initiative, Proposition 90, that used the rhetoric of eminent domain abuse to attempt to undermine a swath of laws protecting our health and environment. Now, the Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association along with the California Farm Bureau is trying to qualify the “Son of Prop 90” for the June 2008 ballot. Provisions hidden in the text of the Jarvis measure would effectively prohibit laws and regulations that protect our air, land, water, and coasts from pollution, as well as laws that prevent sprawl. The measure would even weaken California’s ability to stop global warming. And, they

have thrown in a provision that would ban rent control in California, a matter that should be decided by each affected local government. A broad-based coalition of environmentalists, local governments, seniors, business, and labor that defeated Prop 90 last year has formed again to defeat this measure. This coalition is promoting a strong, honest eminent domain reform proposal, which would prevent the government from using eminent domain to take a home to transfer to a developer. To qualify this alternative to the Jarvis measure, we need 1.1 million signatures by November 20. We’re more than halfway to our goal, but we need your help immediately! You can sign a petition, or better yet, sign it yourself and get nine more people to sign the petition and mail it in. For more information about the coalition and the two initiatives, please visit EminentDomainReform.com. Deadline: Please take action by November 20.” (Sierra Club)

FUND WITH FUNGI

Perhaps Pacifica could start a new revenue-producing industry: growing gourmet mushrooms in our damp coastal climate. A recent Guardian news item from Torino (Turin), Italy indicates that truffle hunters there are bagging as much as half the price of gold for their much sought-after delicacies.

GREEN CREDIT

Donation-linked credit cards work kind of like frequent-flyer programs, only each time you make a purchase, you donate money to a charity or offset carbons. You’re going to buy stuff anyway. Might as well earn carbon offsets or monetary donations while you’re at it; they’re small (usually around 1 percent of spending), but they add up. Some cards offer personal rewards as well as giving to charities or CO2 offsetters, and all are affiliated with major card companies like Visa. Less worry about whether or not your rewards points are gonna expire, since the points go straight to the good cause. Working Assets Visa: Each time you make a purchase, Working Assets splits 10 cents between a variety of nonprofits, such as Planned Parenthood and the Union of Concerned Scientists, plus you earn personal rewards. Earth Rewards MasterCard: Up to 1 percent of your spending goes to GE-AES carbon offsetting programs; you can also choose to get some cash back. Salmon Nation Visa: Issued by an eco-friendly bank. Small percentage of your spending goes to saving Northwest salmon.

World Wildlife Fund Visa: 1 percent of each sale goes to wildlife conservation efforts. If you have a credit card issued by a bank, check its website to see if you can earn rewards for good causes.” (Tip submitted by Amanda Leesburg for idealbite.com.)

ALTERNATIVE GIFT FAIR

Make your holiday gift-giving meaningful again. Instead of getting sucked into the commercial rat race at the malls over the hill, buy thoughtful, unique gifts at the Coastside Alternative Gift Fair on December 8, Ocean Shore School, Pacifica. Help change the world: Shop locally, shop sustainably, and put the real green back in Christmas, Hannukah, and Kwanzaa. (coastsidegiftfair.org, livabilityproject.org)

SHROOMS

“Who’d have thought that the often-overlooked culinary mushroom offered consumers key nutrients like copper, potassium, folate, and niacin? That’s what nutrient analysis of seven varieties of mushrooms—crimini, enoki, maitake, oyster, portabella, shiitake, and white button—has shown. Samples gathered from markets countrywide have been analyzed for their carbohydrate, fat, fiber, protein, vitamin, and mineral contents, along with ergosterol, a precursor to vitamin D. Four varieties were analyzed raw, but portabella, shiitake, and white button mushrooms were analyzed after cooking — to determine the effect of cooking on their nutrient content. Most nutrients were fully retained, while a few dropped to 80% to 95%. All mushrooms were found to provide a significant amount of copper, a trace element that helps the body produce red blood cells and

drives a variety of chemical reactions that are key to human health. They also provide significant amounts of potassium, which helps maintain normal heart rhythm, fluid balance, and muscle and nerve function.” (Agricultural Research, March 2007)

SWAMI SEZ

Teddy Roosevelt gave us the Square Deal. FDR gave us the New Deal. Harry S. Truman gave us the Fair Deal. George W. Bush is giving us the Ordeal.

SITeseer

- Sutter Buttes hikes, nature walks: middlemountain.org
- Gun control laws: bradycampaign.org
- Vote for best global warming video, win a hybrid: current.com/ecospot
- All-natural, nontoxic cleaners: babygenics.com
- Brisbane classical music venue: liveatmissionblue.com

MAYBURRITOVILLE

- Local news: PacificaRiptide.com
- My columns on the Web: WanderingAndWondering.com, PacificaTribune.com.
- Email me your stories & photos: mayburrito@goofbuster.com