

Wandering & Wondering



John Maybury

HAPPY THANKSGIVING

I have been a wannabe vegetarian on and off for years, mostly off. As an animal lover, pet owner, and wild-life freak, I never sit down to a meal of meat without at least a little twinge of guilt. I guess the best compromise I can arrange in my already heavily compromised set of personal values is a sort of Native American appreciation for any wild creature about to be cooked and eaten. Of course, it would help if I had been involved in tracking, hunting, and killing the bird first, then maybe participating in plucking, cleaning, and stuffing it. But no, like most modern mutts, I am at least three or four steps removed from the prairie, range, and barnyard. At least I am conscious of this disconnect between my belief system and lifestyle choices. So I take my dark meat straight up, no gravy, and I prefer a sustainable, free-range bird from a green grocer, and though I don't cook, I do help with the dishes afterward. It's the least a modern hypocrite can do.

TERMINATE SMOG

Please urge Arnie to keep his promise (Proposition 1B) to reduce air pollution. Deadline: Thanksgiving Day. Write Governor Schwarzenegger, State Capitol Building, Sacramento, CA 95814, or email governor@governor.ca.gov.

LONDON-PARIS: 2+ HOURS

Eurostar began an entirely high-speed train service November 14 that shaves 20 minutes off the trip from London to Paris, and 25 minutes off the London to Brussels route. Completion of the high-speed line from London to the Channel Tunnel, part of a \$12 billion project, replaced conventional rail lines that had been used for part of the journey in Britain. Trains can now reach the maximum 186 mph in Britain. (AFP)

BEES, BIRDS, BUTTERFLIES

HANC Recycle Center nursery has many choice plants in stock, and this is the perfect time to plant; a few months of winter rain allow plants to get a well-established root system before the onset of spring warmth. Some of the many popular plants available: buckwheat, blue-eyed grass, yellow-eyed grass, Indian thistle, native morning glory, scarlet columbine, California phacelia, gum plant, bush monkeyflower, yarrow, seaside daisy, Douglas iris cow parsnip, bee plant, purple needlegrass. These are all propagated from local stock and

are ideal plants to attract bees, birds, and butterflies to your garden. The nursery is in the HANC Recycle Center at Frederick and Arguello by Golden Gate Park.

ME AND MY CRONIES

Brand-new jazz-fusion jam band "Me and My Cronies" plays two shows: Friday, November 30, 8 p.m., Peace Cafe, Red Vic Hotel, Haight Street, San Francisco, and Saturday, December 1, 9 p.m., Hotel Utah, 4th and Bryant, San Francisco. This is some intense and cerebral—and occasionally spacey—stuff, a mix of highly structured orchestration and highly free jazz in odd meters. Combines traditional straight-ahead jazz and electric/electronic textures, with modern-day jam-band influences. If you have horn-rimmed glasses, wear them. If you have a brow, furrow it. If you can speak French or German, even better. If you're ready to leave planet Earth, come join us, the countdown begins. Pacifican Ken Restivo is on keyboards and things that go "bzzzzeeerrroooooommmmmphh."

EYES ON THE WORLD

Eyes On The World, paintings in watercolor and acrylic, by Margaret Welsh. The show runs through December 17. Quarry Cove Art Gallery, 225 Rockaway Beach Ave. (just past Chamber of Commerce Visitor Center).

INK LINK

Ink cartridges take eons to decompose. Recycle your old ones, and next time you buy, go with refilled cartridges, which work just like conventional ones and cost less. Recycled cartridges cost up to 75% less than new ones. An average ink cartridge takes about 450 years to decompose. Recycling an ink cartridge can save three quarts of oil. Ordering refills online and mailing in your used ones is easy. Just Google ink cartridge recycling. Some companies offer incentives such as sweepstakes and free ink for a year. (idealbite.com)

FOG CITY

"In today's world, increasingly dominated by the chains and e-commerce, it's sorta nice to know that an old-fashioned ('not-com') independent store with a mom-and-pop feel can still survive. Fog City News has now been voted 'Best Newsstand' and 'Best Candy Store' in the Bay Area! We carry more magazines than any other local newsstand (over 700 in the foreign section alone) and, with 250 premium bars, we have the largest selection of imported chocolate in Northern California! Our inventory is completely computerized so we can provide detailed editorial and shipping information for thousands of magazines. Want to know what a chocolate item actually tastes like? We have compiled tasting notes on every bite-

size item and bar we carry! Oh, and we also have on hand hundreds of rather distinctive greeting cards and the largest collection of nostalgic and imported glass bottled soda pop in the Financial District." (Adam Smith, Fog City News, 455 Market Street, San Francisco, 415-543-7400, fogcitynews.com, Monday-Friday 8 a.m.-6 p.m., Saturday noon-4 p.m.)

SNOOPY THE SNIFFER

"It's common knowledge that dogs have a keen sense of smell. They are used to hunt down escaped criminals and search for contraband during vehicle stops on the highway. Dogs are also used to prevent prohibited items from entering the U.S. through airport terminals. Dogs are now being trained to sniff out weeds. Early detection and rapid response are critical to prevent the spread of noxious weeds such as yellow star thistle, spotted knapweed and leafy spurge. When there are only a few plants in an infestation, an eradication program can be implemented immediately and will be much more effective. A trained dog can find individual weedy plants that a human searcher will often overlook." (Montana.edu)

SWAMI SEZ

"Sports fans suffer fewer bouts of depression and alienation than do people who are uninterested in sports." (University of Kansas study cited in Men's Journal, November 2007)

SITeseer

- Thanksgiving hangman spelling game: dedge.com/flash/hangman/
- Your presidential match: glassbooth.org
- Thanksgiving trivia quiz: home.aristotle.net/Thanksgiving/trivia.asp
- AARP on the Medicare crisis: thisissoridiculous.com
- Don't kill animals for their fur: infurmination.com
- Community emergency alerts: scmalert.info
- Native plants that will grow in your garden: calflora.org
- Ban bunker fuel in San Francisco Bay, i.e., no more oil spills: foe.org
- Dennis the Menace has his own Web TV station: kucinichTV.com
- Senator Feinstein votes Republican: couragecampaign.org

MAYBURRITOVILLE

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

