

## Wandering & Wondering



John Maybury

# Wept

Ex-Marine John Murtha—hawkish Democratic Congressman from Pennsylvania, holder of two Purple Hearts, Vietnam vet, originally a supporter of the Bush War—broke down in tears as he spoke last week in the House of Representatives, calling for immediate withdrawal of U.S. troops from Iraq. Speaking of Vice President Dick “Chickenhawk” Cheney, the congressman said acidly, “I like guys who’ve never been there that criticize us who’ve been there. I like guys who got five deferments and never been there and send people to war, and then don’t like to hear suggestions about what needs to be done.” Meanwhile, American soldiers and Iraqi civilians continue dying. And for what? Do you feel safer and freer? Is their sacrifice meaningful? Is the Bush administration’s political posturing worth another human life?

### Tunnel love

Nosey Mary wonders what’s going on at Caltrans and the Devil’s Slide tunnel project, other than Fogzilla hanging out up there on the hill (self-plug: get Fogzilla t-shirts at Gearhead and Sam’s Deli). District 4’s site index at dot.ca.gov has the works: legal, environmental, engineering. Dig in, tunnel heads!

### Dis ‘n’ dat

Scott “Wingman” McKellar wonders if chloramine in our tap water causes the strange new rash his son Kevin gets after showering. Scientists from a leading Midwestern university are studying the McKellar household’s showerhead to determine the origin of this skin affliction.

### Goatbusters

In other matters, Scott wishes that two brush-clearing goats working across the street from him would wander over and eat the poison oak on his hillside. He wonders if the goats might have chomped his mail the day he found his mailbox empty. Also, a police officer wearing rubber gloves was seen responding to a neighbor’s call about the goats.

### Peebles Park

We eagerly await news from “Developer Don” Peebles about his plans for Rockaway quarry. Seems like a perfect spot for a big extreme-sports bike bowl to match Crespi Cream skatepark. Bring on the Rockaway X

Games! Just hope sports fans are not overcome by fumes from the Calera Creek water treatment plant, but if they can’t handle it, what do you suppose Peebles’ luxury resortgoers will think? Forget Big Dig. Can you say Big Stink?

### The Pampered Chef

My neighbor Jane Solano directs local operations for The Pampered Chef (pamperedchef.com), a home-based business selling kitchen tools and pantry products through in-home cooking demonstrations. Hosts get free products for inviting Jane into their homes to show off the goods. Jane says everyone has fun doing it, and she loves her job. Jane hosts a Holiday Open House featuring The Pampered Chef, donating 15% of sales to the Red Cross. Jane’s baker friends “2 Sisters Baking 4U” offer tasty treats to shoppers at the event. Write this down: Saturday, Nov. 26, noon to 5 p.m., Creekside Townhouses, The Clubhouse (next to the pool), Rosita Road (below Capistrano) in Linda Mar. (Pampered Chef, founded by Doris Christopher, gives a lot of money to charity to fight hunger and breast cancer. Christopher wrote a book called “Come to the Table.”) Info: 650-359-2414, pamperedchef.biz/janescokin

### Wall art

What has Herb Caen, Italian fishermen, Emperor Norton, jazz musicians, and the Imperial Dragon on it?

Why, the North Beach Jazz Mural at Broadway and Columbus in the city, that’s what! Help finish this amazing community project. Call Marsha Garland at 415-989-2220 and tell her I sent you.

### Fecology

The fertile imagination of Ian Butler, host of PCTV 26’s “Laugh Locally,” has created a great comedy bit about an imaginary company called Fecology, which sells bile-diesel fuel made from human waste. (Damn, this could make Pacifica rich. All we have to do is sell what the water treatment plant processes.) For a future skit, Ian needs left-handers named Ian, so if you fit that description and want to break into showbiz, visit ianbutlermusic.com.

### Haiku Doggy

Your just-cleaned carpet  
Has been modified by me  
With brown, muddy prints.

You black-and-white thing,  
I challenge you to come out.  
Woof! Woof! Oops, I stink.

(BJ Nathanson)

Black kitty, white stripe,  
Calmly sits in the backyard.  
Don’t let the dog out.

(K.C. Morgan)

### Haiku Nerdy

Chaos reigns within.  
Reflect, repent, and reboot.

Order shall return.

### Doctor Feelgood

Fruitcake season is here, but the real threat to your sanity and your soft underbelly is fad diets. Avoid them like the—well, you know what I mean (I am trying really hard to avoid using clichés today). The key to healthy, long-term weight loss is eating a variety of foods in moderation and getting regular exercise. Talk to your healthcare provider or go online to helpful sites such as webmd.com.

### Wet t-shirts

Why do t-shirt look darker when wet? Light coming toward wet fabric refracts within the water, dispersing the light. Also, the water surface scatters the light. The combination of these two effects causes less light to reflect to your eyes and makes the wet fabric look darker. (Professor Dale Riehart, B.S., M.S.G., Gross Human Anatomy, Nebraska Normal School, Omaha)

### Swami Sez

Laugh and the whole world laughs with you. Cry and...you have to blow your nose.

### Mayburritoville

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