

Wandering & Wondering



John Maybury

planyourvisit.htm. Submit comments by Jan. 22, 2008 to regulations.gov.” (Jake Sigg, Nature News)

HELP WANTED

California Invasive Plant Council seeks project coordinator to organize “Wildland Weed Field Courses” statewide and help with annual symposium, quarterly newsletter, advocacy/outreach campaigns. Info: calipc.org.

PALEOCON

[Paleocons believe that] “republics mind their own business. Their governments have very limited powers, and their people are too busy practicing self-government to worry about problems in other countries. Empires not only bully smaller, defenseless nations, they also can’t leave their own, hapless subjects alone...Paleocons see neoconservatives as empire-builders...pointing to Rome as an example of how an ongoing campaign of military expansionism can destroy a republic...Paleocons are often more sympathetic to environmental protection, animal welfare, and anti-consumerism than others on the American Right.” (Wikipedia)

WAR IS A RACKET

“War is just a racket. A racket is best described, I believe, as something that is not what it seems to the majority of people. Only a small inside

group knows what it is about. It is conducted for the benefit of the very few at the expense of the masses. I believe in adequate defense at the coastline and nothing else. If a nation comes over here to fight, then we’ll fight. The trouble with America is that when the dollar only earns 6 percent over here, then it gets restless and goes overseas to get 100 percent. Then the flag follows the dollar and the soldiers follow the flag. I wouldn’t go to war again as I have done to protect some lousy investment of the bankers. There are only two things we should fight for. One is the defense of our homes and the other is the Bill of Rights. War for any other reason is simply a racket. There isn’t a trick in the racketeering bag that the military gang is blind to. It has its ‘finger men’ to point out enemies, its ‘muscle men’ to destroy enemies, its ‘brain men’ to plan war preparations, and a ‘Big Boss’ Super-Nationalistic-Capitalism. It may seem odd for me, a military man to adopt such a comparison. Truthfulness compels me to. I spent thirty-three years and four months in active military service as a member of this country’s most agile military force, the Marine Corps. I served in all commissioned ranks from Second Lieutenant to Major-General. And during that period, I spent most of my time being a high-class muscle-man for Big Business,

for Wall Street and for the Bankers. In short, I was a racketeer, a gangster for capitalism. I suspected I was just part of a racket at the time. Now I am sure of it. Like all the members of the military profession, I never had a thought of my own until I left the service. My mental faculties remained in suspended animation while I obeyed the orders of higher-ups. This is typical with everyone in the military service. I helped make Mexico, especially Tampico, safe for American oil interests in 1914. I helped make Haiti and Cuba a decent place for the National City Bank boys to collect revenues in. I helped in the raping of half a dozen Central American republics for the benefits of Wall Street. The record of racketeering is long. I helped purify Nicaragua for the international banking house of Brown Brothers in 1909-1912. I brought light to the Dominican Republic for American sugar interests in 1916. In China I helped to see to it that Standard Oil went its way unmo- lested. During those years, I had, as the boys in the back room would say, a swell racket. Looking back on it, I feel that I could have given Al Capone a few hints. The best he could do was to operate his racket in three districts. I operated on three continents.” (Major-General Smedley Butler, USMC, 1933)

THANKS FOR...

“Voices (of sanity in an insane world): Keith Olbermann, Jon Stewart, Stephen Colbert, Seymour Hersh, Frank Rich, Maureen Dowd, Arianna Huffington, Robert Scheer, Paul Krugman, Bob Herbert and Tom Tomorrow.” (Tim Sullivan, “221 Things to Be Thankful For,” S.F. Chronicle, Nov. 22)

PHONE NUMBER TRICK

1. Start with the first three digits of your seven-digit phone number.
2. Multiply that number by 80.
3. Add 1 to that number.
4. Now multiply by 250.
5. Add the last four digits of your phone number.
6. Add them again.
7. Subtract 250.
8. Divide by 2.
9. Do you recognize this number? (The Joy of Mathematics, a course offered by The Teaching Company)

MONKEY MENACE

Monkeys behaving badly in New Delhi, India, have injured more than two dozen people. Scientists think the simians are disturbed about human encroachment into their natural habitat, forcing them to live in an unhealthy urban environment. Compounding the problem is the ancient Hindu belief that monkeys are descended from gods and therefore should be tolerated and not killed. (Earthweek)

SWAMI SEZ

“We are the people who run this country. We are the deciders. And every single day, every single one of us needs to step outside and take some action.” (Molly Ivins, 1944-2007)

SITeseer

- Relay food to the needy: foodrunners.org
- Detroit—it’s not just about cars: sanderscandy.com
- Fun, good-smelling stuff: raindogsonline.com
- \$399 buys laptop for 3rd World kid, one for your kid: laptopgiving.org
- Helping war vets transition: thepathwayhome.org/
- End cruelty to farm animals: humanecalifornia.org
- Save trees, opt out of junkmail: catalogchoice.org
- Action-packed art show and auction: pacificaopenstudios.com
- Santa’s green list: marinemamalcenter.org, saveourshores.org
- Help kids learn, help teachers teach: psv@pacificasd.org, 355-6716

MAYBURRITOVILLE

- Local news: PacificaRiptide .com
- My columns on the Web: WanderingAndWondering.com, PacificaTribune.com.
- Email: mayburrito@goofbuster.com

BIRD-DOG

“GGNRA has published a proposed rule to protect snowy plovers from off-leash dogs at two locations during certain times of the year. Though much of the background information is helpful, once again the park comes up short in protecting people, our pets, wildlife, and the park from roaming off-leash dogs. These shortcomings are particularly evident in light of the bunker fuel spill. Many of you have worked on rescuing birds and doing shoreline surveys, and many of those individuals have reported that off-leash dogs have been chasing oiled birds from resting spots on shore back into the water, where they are much more difficult to capture and save. The park’s failure to enforce leash laws exacerbates the difficult task of saving oiled birds, yet this proposal remains weak. View the proposal: nps.gov/goga/