

## Wandering & Wondering



John Maybury

# Back home

Just returned from three weeks in Italy. (Watch for the story and pictures in a future Tribune). I am dreaming a lot about trains, train stations, hilltop castles, cathedrals, all the European eye candy that I spend my hard-earned money and 12 hours in a cramped jet to go see. One solution to these transpolar torture flights might be permanent expat status, as explained at [www.InternationalLiving.com](http://www.InternationalLiving.com) (thanks for the tip, Kit!).

### E-ticket etiquette

After I got home, I needed to clear my head and work out the kinks from flying in pretzel class. I jumped on my bike and took a nice, long ride on the Rockaway Trail, Pacifica's scenic, coastal bike/hike path. But I had forgotten my manners. As I passed a woman walking her dog, I failed to call out, and her startled dog barked and lunged at me. Luckily, I swerved and avoided him, but it could have been bad news for both of us. I went back and talked with the woman. Turns out we are neighbors. We agreed that she should have controlled her dog better but that I should have warned her I was coming up behind her. (Bicyclists should use a bell or horn, or announce "coming through" or "on your left," when they pass, as a courtesy to walkers, especially those with dogs or baby strollers. This is standard practice on mixed-use trails, and I urge the City of Pacifica to put up signs to this effect, as other cities do.)

### Two Julies

We almost had two Julies on the City Council. Julie Weismann lost to Cal Hinton by a mere 31 votes. Yikes! Now do you believe that

every vote counts? Check out [www.ShapeTheFuture.org](http://www.ShapeTheFuture.org).

### In land we trust

Pacifica Land Trust helps preserve and protect open space in and around Pacifica. PLT supports San Pedro Creek restoration, beach and watershed improvement, trail maintenance, public lands access, and other important natural resources on the coast. PLT needs your time and financial support. Info: P.O. Box 988, Pacifica, CA 94044, phone 650-359-7034, [www.PacificaLandTrust.org](http://www.PacificaLandTrust.org)

### Venison on the grille

Mitch Reid wants motorists on Highway 1 between Rockaway and Reina del Mar to slow down, especially early in the morning, because that stretch of road seems to be a popular but deadly deer crossing. A number of deer have been hit there, which also makes it a traffic hazard. You can be injured or killed when you hit a deer, and your car won't look the same, either.

### Autoerotica

On a happier automotive note, check out the sweet rides at [www.PacificHotRods.com](http://www.PacificHotRods.com) and [www.HavanaStreet.com](http://www.HavanaStreet.com).

### Tubfrim

This funny, made-up Norwegian word is actually about a serious effort to raise money for crippled children and tuberculosis research. Since 1929, the Norwegian-American group Sons of Norway ([www.SonsOfNorway.com](http://www.SonsOfNorway.com)) has been collecting used postage stamps (and more recently, used telephone cards) for Tubfrim (short for tuberculosis=tub and stamps=frimerk). Tubfrim raises money by selling to stamp collectors, philatelists, deltiologists, and dealers all over the world. Rolf Hermansen is the local contact. Call him at 345-0354 or send stamps to him at 421 Rolling Hills Ave., San Mateo, CA 94403-4322. He collected 364 pounds of stamps last year and shipped them off to Norway in a container provided free by Star Shipping. Tubfrim takes stamps from all countries, carefully cut or torn off the envelope with a half-inch margin so as not to damage the stamps. It also accepts stamp col-

lections, old envelopes, covers, and postcards. If any donated item is more than 50 years old, do not cut or tear but send the whole envelope or postcard; it has more value that way. Info: [www.tubfrim.no](http://www.tubfrim.no)

### Loose screws

Sebastiani has formed a new division for its screw-top wines and called it Three Loose Screws. The three labels under that banner are Screw Kappa Napa, Mia's Playground, and Fusee. Screw-top wine has found a new following among wine connoisseurs, who say cork may not be everything it's cracked up to be. Literally. In other vineyard action, Covey Run Winery of Washington state is selling Semillon Ice Wine for \$21 a bottle; it's made from Semillon grapes that froze on the vine. (Sources: Kane's Beverage Week, and reverse wine snob Louis Quatorze, who turns up his nose at cork)

### Love Italian style

Leonardo da Vinci's birthplace, the Tuscan village of Vinci, has created a legal carpark for lovers in a stadium parking lot. Car sex is common in Italy, where most kids live with their parents until they marry, usually in their 30s. Vinci council set aside 172 parking spaces for nighttime use, with soft lighting and a garbage can at each space. Vinci's mayor said 90% of locals had made love in a car at least once. Part of the reason for legalizing lover's lane in Vinci was to provide security against serial killers like the one in the 80s and 90s known as The Monster, who terrorized couples in their cars, cutting off their genitals. (Alan Nicholson found this racy item by Natasha Bitá on the Australian Web site [www.news.com.au](http://www.news.com.au) 5/26/04)

### Swami Sez

"The false can never grow into truth by growing in power." (Rabindranath Tagore, "Stray Birds")

### Mayburritoville

Please give my publisher a break. Send all complaints and marriage proposals to [mayburrito@goofbuster.com](mailto:mayburrito@goofbuster.com).