

Wandering & Wondering



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MEDIA HANDSHAKE

In response to reader concerns about work furloughs and other issues here at the Pacifica Tribune, let me just give a little background on my working relationship with the Trib. When a group of us in the community started PacificaRiptide.com two years ago, we wanted to create a new kind of local media outlet—a local Web site. We didn't want to replicate or compete with the Trib. We wrote publicly on Riptide and here in the Trib that Riptide would cooperate with the Trib in posting community news and opinion. But Riptide has carved out its own identity and style. Riptide and the Trib share story sources and content, and we credit each other for "borrowed" content. It's a good arrangement that benefits both of us. It's our own local experiment with synergy, by which readers get more than the sum of two parts. Riptide hopes that the Trib survives the economic crisis gripping the newspaper industry. We like our ink-on-paper home-

town rag. You can spill coffee on it and still read the news, but if you spill coffee on your keyboard, it's a Riptide wipeout!



CHU CHALLENGE

President Obama's Secretary of Energy Steven Chu warns that climate change is causing drought and harming our cities and farms. Chu says that if global warming is not reversed in the next 20 years, California agriculture could dry up and blow away. Tell your elected representatives at the local, state, and federal level to take action now to reduce greenhouse gases and conserve water. And we all have to stop wasting water NOW.

BACON EXPLOSION

Exploding like fat on the fire, a recipe called Bacon Explosion is all over the Internet. This heart-stopping, bacon-wrapped sausage roll is 500 grams of fat ready to barbecue at your own risk.



GIT 'ER DONE

One of my pet peeves is the traffic light on Highway 1 at Crespi Drive. It turns red for no reason when there is no cross-traffic at all coming from Crespi, either vehicular or pedestrian. It's very annoying to have to stop there for a red light for no good reason. Also, braking and accelerating unnecessarily are a waste of brake pads and gas. Multiply that malfunctioning signal times all the motorists who are forced to stop for nothing, and you get some idea of how this one light has contributed to global warming—not to mention frustrating a lot of drivers. Well, folks, yours truly got all cranky on Van "The Man" Ocampo, our city engineer and director of Public Works. He and Claudio Ramirez of his staff lit a fire under Caltrans, which has sent an engineer out to that blinkin' intersection to monitor the stoplight and make necessary adjustments to fix the problem. Cool. I say: Give those men a gold star. And a steady green light. Thanks, guys

ANIMAL STYLE

Last week I told you about In-N-Out Burger's secret menu. My fast-food correspondent emailed this bit of humint: "Dude, you can ask for burgers or fries 'animal style,' grilled onions, any number of hamburger patties, fries "extra crispy," a Neapolitan shake (chocolate, vanilla, and strawberry— together in a milk shake). At the register, you can ask for the listing of all their locations, folded in a neat little handout, like a mini-map, but it's not a map. And you can ask for stickers. Also, on the inside bottom of their cups, is a Bible quote." (U.R.)

INNER EDIROT

"Which of the following describes most accurately a gathering of managers of an organization I run? All of them are correct in some way: manager's meeting (suggesting a sense of individual participation in the process), managers' meeting (encouraging collaboration and functional interaction), managers meeting (providing an all-important sense of identity). For simplicity and continued accuracy—and maybe because I really don't care anymore!— I always write managers meeting. On another subject, the national park near my place in Fresno County is named after its centerpiece feature, Kings Canyon, always written that way in English since its original naming in 1805 by Spanish Army Lieutenant Gabriel Moraga based at the Presidio of San Francisco, who called it Rio de los

Santos Reyes or river of the holy kings, the three kings of Christian nativity fame. The canyon never did belong to those three kings, only named in their honor, so Kings' Canyon would be factually inaccurate. It's a name, not a statement of ownership, as in Alice's Restaurant. A few literate Park Service people who've been attacked by anal grammarians point both to historical precedence and to logic." (Pete Hammar)



GROUNDHOG DAY

I woke up on the morning of February 2, looked outside, saw yet another dimly sunny winter day without rain on the horizon, and thought, "Oh no, it's just like Groundhog Day, the movie." Then I got up and looked at the calendar. Guess what? It WAS Groundhog Day.

SITSEER

- Peregrine falcons: woodmen.org
- Maps, geography quizzes: rethinkingschools.org
- 44 presidents morphing and other fun stuff: flixxy.com
- Safety and security tips: creditcardwhizkid.com
- Find the nude dude: realholidays.com.au
- Find out who donated to Proposition 8: sacbee.com
- Jeff Leedy's humor: arthatmakesyoulaugh.com
- Backyard Bird Count, Feb. 13-16: birdsources.org/gbbc
- Google Earth goes to sea: earth.google.com/ocean
- Land recycling course, Feb. 25, San Francisco: cclr.org

SWAMI SEZ 1

"Cats look down on people; dogs look up to people; pigs treat people as equals." (Winston Churchill)

SWAMI SEZ 2

"Reality is the leading cause of stress among those in touch with it." (Jane Wagner)

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