



Wandering & Wondering

John Maybury

ISLA VISTA ARGO

I mentioned to some friends that I was looking for Internet records or copies of my old underground newspaper, The Isla Vista Argo (1967-69). What a bonanza they came up with: Library of Congress, National Library of Australia, UC Santa Barbara Library, and other college and university archives around the nation. See links to various collections in my Argo story on PacificaRiptide.com.

SOLAR SHIP

A joint effort of scientists, sailors, and investors from around the world, Planet Solar has made a huge push for solar energy by developing the world's largest solar-powered boat. The 60-ton smart yacht is voyaging around the world, leaving nothing but waves in its wake. The global shipping industry has been struggling to find ways to improve its efficiency and generate fewer carbon dioxide emissions, but despite breakthroughs in salt water and algae fuels, progress has been slow. According to EarthJustice, "ships transport 90 percent of the world's consumer goods, including computers, cars, shoes, clothes and toys...Ships burn tons of fuel per hour, generating 3 to 4

percent or more of human-generated global warming gases -- more than commercial aviation." The futuristic-looking Planet Solar boat demonstrates the versatility of renewable energy, and a bright hope for how the shipping industry might one day be able to eliminate its carbon footprint. Picking up and dropping off passengers at various major ports, Planet Solar is scheduled to return to Europe in April 2011. This venture aims to raise awareness that transportation and cruise boats currently emit a large portion of the planet's total carbon emissions (PSFK). Because the shipping industry is under-regulated, its environmental and public health impacts will escalate tremendously as global trade triples over the next two decades -- unless new air pollution and no-discharge laws are enacted by national and international bodies (earthjustice.org, planetsolar.org).

DO-IT-YOURSELF PR

Media Alliance has published a guide on "how to pitch stories to reporters, write press releases, and develop a press list... covers more advanced media strategies such as creating media events, organizing press conferences, planning

media campaigns, and documenting unfair media coverage." This is an ideal resource for community volunteers and nonprofit groups doing their own publicity. Info: media-alliance.org

COASTSIDE GEOTOURISM

The San Mateo County Resource Conservation District invites you to the next Blue Circle meeting "Geotourism in Coastal San Mateo County," Wednesday, March 24, 3:30 to 5:30 p.m., Cypress Meadows, 343 Cypress Avenue, Moss Beach. Geotourism is "best practice" tourism that sustains or enhances the geographical character of a place, such as its culture, environment, heritage, and the well-being of its residents. Blue Circle is a community forum to share ideas, information, and resources for the goal of natural resource management, education, and stewardship. No agenda, no minutes, no action items! Check your guns at the door and enjoy the company of others who care deeply about the future of San Mateo County. As always, the informal talk is followed by a social featuring food, beer, wine, and silent auction. To donate an auction item, email renee@sanmateocrd.org. RSVP: 650-728-8720 or bkossy@coastside.net.

HAPPY ACTIVISTS

"...It may be noble, but political activism is hardly a barrel of laughs. And yet it makes you happier. So find two university psychologists in new research that looks for the first time at the link between political activity and well-being. Malte Klar and Tim Kasser started by interviewing two sets of

around 350 college students, both about their degree of political engagement and their levels of happiness and optimism. Both times, they found that those most inclined to go on a demo were also the cheeriest. So there's a link -- but can politics actually make a person happier? In the third study, the academics took a bunch of students and divided them up into groups. The first were encouraged to write to the management of the college cafeteria asking for tastier food. The next lot wrote asking the cafe to source local or Fairtrade products. They were then tested on their well-being, and the group who had involved themselves in the political debate were far and away the strongest on the 'vitality' scale: they felt more alive and enriched than those who merely complained about the menu..."

(Aditya Chakraborty, guardian.co.uk, March 2)

ST. PATRICK'S DAY ALERT

Why you should never iron your four-leaf clover: You don't want to press your luck. (Attributed to Michael Shaw, who comes from a long line of leprecochens and shamrachs)

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

Here's a Pacifica "name" you might not want to remember: Richard M. Nixon. His house in San Clemente was known as La Casa Pacifica. (Submitted by Niki Wise of Eugene, Oregon)

LOWE'S MILITARY DISCOUNT

Lowe's home improvement stores now offer an all-day, every-day 10 percent discount to all military personnel who

are active, reserve, retired or disabled veterans and their family members, with a valid, government-issued military ID card. All other military veterans will receive the discount on the Memorial Day, Fourth of July, and Veterans Day weekends. The discount is available on in-stock and special-order purchases up to \$5,000. Excluded from the discount are sales on Lowes.com, previous sales, and purchases of services or gift cards. In addition to offering military discounts at specific times during the year, Lowe's has extended benefits for its employees serving in the military and offers employment opportunities to military personnel after their military service has ended. Currently, more than 12,000 Lowe's employees are military veterans or reservists.

SWAMI SEZ

"The only thing that stops God from sending another flood is that the first one was useless." (Nicholas Chamfort, 1741-1794)

SITeseer

- Schwarzenegger vs. Coastal Commission: Californiawatch.org
- Death Race 2010, the ultimate extreme sport: youmaydie.com
- San Mateo County coastal tsunami flood zone map: conservation.ca.gov

MAYBURRITOVILLE

- Web Sites: Pacifica Tribune, Wandering & Wondering, Goofbuster
- Blogs: Pacifica Riptide, SF Gate (Peninsula Coastside)
- Email: mayburrito@goofbuster.com