

Wandering & Wondering

John Maybury



HATE MAI

Wow, cool, I love those nasty letters to the editor about me the past couple of weeks. I mean it. Thanks for the free publicity, guys. And I know who you are because you are the same guys who have attacked me before. I don't mind you questioning my fairness, my manhood, or my liberal politics, because everybody who pays attention knows that I am not "fair and balanced," that I don't watch Fox news, that I am a girly man, and that I am a raging pinko. Hell, yes, I am still angry after the election, even though my man won. I am angry at the piggy bankers and cheesy chisellers who continue to rip off the federal government (read: U.S. taxpayers) for bailouts. These hypocrites cry about socialism while taking public funds. Anyone who is not angry about what is going on right now has something wrong with him (or her). Oh my, look at that, I just said something "fair and balanced." So here it is, you haters of all things Maybury (not Mayberry, please, the Tribune proofreader missed that one). Please keep writing your nasty little letters to the editor. You see, I love the attention you draw to my column. And I love that you continue to read my column even though you hate it so much. That is really sick and twisted. When I don't like a writer, I stop reading that writer's stuff. I don't go on torturing myself. So I guess we have arrived at a diagnosis of masochism. The equivalent would be if I got into the middle of the dogfight between Frank Cimo, Piers Lahey, and Mark Coby. No way. You know, a man's gotta know his limitations.

INNER EDIROT

"Hi, John: I love your column, and your sense of humor, so I think you're the ideal person to share this chuckle with. Looking at the February 18 edition of our Trib, there's an article on page 3A headlined 'Longtime Coastside artists debut new exhibit at Quarry Cove.' Expecting merely the usual, I was pleasantly startled to learn that several of the paintings were inspired by 'travels the two artists used to share, along with their spouses.' As someone whose adulthood arrived at the same time as the swinging '70s, I can only applaud." (Lehua Marjorie Wells)

SANCHEZ VANDALS

Vandals damaged the lights at the base of the mural on Sanchez Art Center concert hall. The lights cannot be repaired and will have to be replaced by overhead lights. Vandals also have climbed on the roof of the building and done other mischief, which we won't mention here so as not to encourage copycats. If you have any idea who the vandals are, please contact the Pacifica Police Department, which has a "silent witness" tip line if you don't want to leave your name. Also, if you can help fundraising for new mural lights, call 650-355-1882 or email info@pacificaperformances.org

SCIENCE SUMMER SCHOOL

Here is a fun and productive way to spend your summer vacation. San Francisco State University's summer campus near Yuba Pass in the Sierra Nevada offers courses in biology (plants, insects, birds, butterflies, ecology), geology, astronomy, writing retreats, illustration (with Jack Laws), and many, many more. Sleep in tents and eat delicious meals. All you need is a sleeping bag and personal items. For more information: jsteele@sfsu.edu or 415-338-1571. "I have taken courses in botany and astronomy there, and highly recommend them. The astronomy course includes looking through large telescopes that reveal exciting and beautiful views of objects you never knew existed. My most vivid memory of when I took this course I still see it in my mind's eye is the 'star' Albireo, which is the head of Cygnus the Swan. Albireo under magnification is revealed as two stars, one of which is daffodil yellow, the other a sapphire blue. The contrast was so striking and so ineffably beautiful that I gasped. It was burned into my memory." (Jake Sigg, Nature News)

WHO KNEW?

"A cup of coffee...needs a great deal more water than that poured into the pot. According to a new book on the subject, 1120 litres of water are required for the production of beans for a single litre of the beverage (or 140 litres per cup). A relatively modest 120 litres go into making the same amount of tea. As many as 4 litres of water are used to make a litre of the bottled stuff. Household items are just as thirsty. Oceans are needed to make shoes, hamburgers and microchips. And several bathfuls go to making a plain cheese sandwich, which can sometimes seem a little dry." (The Economist)

SPELLING DISASTER

"Hwy 1 @ Pigeon Point has been REOPENED. Thank you for your patients and understanding. OES 11. Sent by James Farrell." (San Mateo County emergency alert, March 11)

LE PETIT PRINCE

"John, I've been really busy getting interviews for my website: evanflys.com. Check out Willi Kriessmann, Bill Getz, Will Whiteside, Burt Newmark, and Jack Burke. Flight Line Internet Radio asked me to be one of their reporters and now they are playing clips of interviews I've recorded! They want to give me my own time slot once I have enough clips recorded! COOL, HUH! And it's all thanks to you!" (Evan Isenstein-Brand)

DUMB & DUMBER

The Metrolink engineer who caused the fatal train crash in Chatsworth, California, reportedly was texting teenage railfans at the time of the accident, and previously may have allowed some of these youngsters to operate his locomotive. (RailPAC News)

FREE TO BREEDERS

"A village in northern Austria, worried by its dwindling population, is offering free land to all who pledge to start a family in a decade, the Kurier newspaper reported Saturday. Plots of 800 and 900 square metres (8,611 to 9,687 square feet) are up for grabs at Rappottenstein, near the Czech border, to both singles and married couples who pledge to have at least one child in the next 10 years. Singles also have to get married. Other conditions stipulate that the new owners have to build a house on the plot in three years. If the conditions are not fulfilled, the owners will have to pay 12,000 euros (\$15,163). The commune where the village is located is home to only 1,760 people." (Agence France Presse, March 7)

SWAMI SEZ

"Great spirits have always encountered violent opposition from mediocre minds." (Albert Einstein)

SITSEER

- Sierra snow & ice (my mountain train ride photo album): PacificaRiptide.com
- Heads upsatellite debris rains down: SpaceWeather.com
- A Republican I like (she hates Ann Coulter): [Google Meghan McCain](http://GoogleMeghanMcCain)
- Video about Pacifica's favorite bird: WesternSnowyPlover.org
- French foodies' goodies: TheGourmetCorner.com
- Rails to Trails map: BayNature.org
- Tracking Obama: politifact.com/truth-o-meter/promises

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