

Wandering & Wondering

John Maybury



QUARRY WARRIORS

Commenters on PacificaRiptide.com have been jawing again about Rockaway Quarry and the two failed ballot measures that sought to insert housing developments into that battleground open space. This discussion never seems to end, as proponents and opponents go back and forth on the issues. The endless discussion took a wacky turn this week when Jim Wagner posted one of those life expectancy calculators on Riptide, while snarkily smirking: "Everyone who is fixated on the quarry should check to see if they're going to live long enough to actually see what happens to it. This ought to give everyone something to worry about instead of the quarry." Meanwhile, other quarry warriors and worriers float their finest fantasies for the flatlands at the foot of Mori Point GGNRA: casino, bordello, medical marijuana plantation, fight club, sports arena, biotech campus, and last but not least—more turf for our growing national park at Mori Point.

PIER PRESSURE

The state Fish and Game Commission has approved the Marine Life Protection Act, with the concurrence of sports fishermen, surfers, divers, and conservationists. The new law helps coastal fisheries recover, while allowing recreational activities to continue along the California coastline.

DOYLE DRIVE REBUILD

After years of planning, Doyle Drive (the southern access to the Golden Gate Bridge) will be replaced with a roadway

that meets modern seismic and design standards. The San Francisco County Transportation Authority (SFCTA), Federal Highway Administration (FHA), and Caltrans lead this project. Pre-construction activities, including necessary tree removals, begin this month, with construction expected to start in the fall. Learn more at doyledrive.org or by calling 415-263-5953.

PLASTIC PATCH

A scientific expedition sailed last week toward the heart of the Pacific plastic pollution known as the "garbage patch." Researchers aboard the ship hope to study the floating mass of junk that some sailors claim is as big across as the state of Texas.

UCLA SLANG

The sixth edition of "UCLA Slang" is being published this month by UCLA linguistics professor Pamela Munro and her students. "Students learn a lot about grammar, language, and linguistics," Munro said. "You can study anything you want about ordinary language through the medium of slang." The 160-page lexicon includes terms, definitions, parts of speech, sample sentences, and notes on the etymology and origin of new slang, Munro said. The dictionary supplies such words and definitions as "presh," which means cute or precious. Other terms or phrases include "fomo," or fear of missing out, "schwa" for wow; and "obama," meaning cool, as in "You so obama." "Bro-mance" means a close platonic friendship. And "bellig" means drunk and belligerent. "Eargasm" means, well, just what it sounds like. (Reuters)

R.I.P., GIDGET

Not being Taco Bell aficionados, we were unaware that Pacifica's TB franchise on the beach recently flew its flag at half-mast in memory of the fast-food chain's late mascot Gidget the Chihuahua (according to Leah Garchik's San Francisco Chronicle column August 3). Yo quiero!

WORD UP

Last week the T-Mobile cell phone launch practiced its sky-writing stunt over Linda Mar, but it was so windy that the letters dispersed before the biplane pilot could finish the word.

MEDICAL MIRACLE

Good news on the health care front! My medical mythbuster Lyn Lossow forwards a July 29 WebMD item about scientists using blue food dye (similar to that found in blue M&Ms and blue Gatorade) to treat spinal cord injuries. Who knew!

WALGREENS WIPEOUT

Patricia Delich says, "I'm not thrilled about the location of the new Walgreens drugstore in Manor. That corner is already busy, and when the store opens, there will definitely be more traffic. We'll all need to be careful to guard against accidents. I was so hopeful that Walgreens was trying to become part of the community when it placed a mural of a wave in the window above the entrance (echoing the theme of a beach community). But Walgreens then placed its huge red logo on top of the wave, obscuring most of it. Come on, we KNOW you are Walgreens without you shoving your logo down our throats!"

KAHUNA KUPUNA

Get your bod into a local surf shop and sign up now for Kahuna Kupuna surf contest, August 15, Linda Mar. Benefits Pacifica's Environmental Family. Or sign up online at kahunakupuna.org. Hit the beach.

HEALTH CARE REFORM?

The headline on the Walgreens drugstore ad in the San Francisco Chronicle reads: "An Entire Meal For Only \$10." The photo below it shows a DiGiorno 12-inch frozen pizza, a Coca-Cola 12-pack, and a half-gallon of Dreyer's ice cream. As Jay Leno might scoff, "How fat are we?"



GOOD CATCH

On July 12 at Sharp Park beach south of the pier, Pacifica fisherman Frank Gori caught this 43-inch, 30-pound striped bass (striper). A record of this catch is in the bait shop at Francisco and Paloma (see accompanying photo).

GOOD FELLA'S PIZZA

Pizza lovers are scarfing up the slices and pies at Linda Mar's newest entry in Pacifica's pizza war: Good Fella's, from good fella Ray of Upper Crust Deli in Park Mall (Terra Nova at Oddstad). Good Fella's opened for business on August 10, after months of testing and paperwork.

PODIUM SINGER

Wouldn't Pacifica's beleaguered City Council love to hear a Walter Paulson singing at the Public Comment podium? It sure would beat all

the bullying and breast-beating the council must endure every Monday night. Walter is a much-beloved fixture at San Francisco Board of Supervisors meetings, where he regularly serenades the board with appropriately chosen tunes and lyrics. Read all about it in the August 6 San Francisco Chronicle (sfgate.com).

PHOOEY

A funny urban legend has been making the rounds of Pacifica computers recently, but Snopes.com says it is an old April Fool's Day gag that keeps circulating on the Internet. It's about a crafty Englishman using a fake ticket machine to sell parking lot spaces and then making off with the proceeds to a cushy retirement villa in Spain. If this perfect crime sounds too good to be true, it is.

FAIRNESS TO GRANUCCI'S

Mary Lou Geimer didn't like me making fun of Granucci's menu misspellings last week. She says the petrale sole on a bed of artichokes is an excellent dish, despite the "petrole" typo. Mary Lou also recommends the pasta with clams, the short ribs with polenta, and the pizza. She says the wine list is good and the prices reasonable. Now I can't wait to try Granucci's, and I will leave my proofreading glasses at home.

SITSEER

Check out this local nonprofit's new Web site: chicanalatina.org

SWAMI SEZ

"There is no snooze button on a cat who wants breakfast."

MAYBURRITOVILLE

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