



Wandering & Wondering

John Maybury

KILLERS TARGET TREES & BEES

I was sickened to read in the San Francisco Chronicle (July 23) about someone killing 44 trees in Golden Gate Park, and (presumably) someone else killing 100,000 honeybees in their hives at Hayes Valley Park. It is a sad day in the nature-loving Bay Area when hateful people walk among us. All I can hope for is that these individuals are caught and punished appropriately. I oppose capital punishment on principle, so when I read about these senseless crimes against nature, I can only wish the wrongdoers a life sentence of guilty conscience—and hundreds of hours of community service. A \$2,000 reward has been posted for information leading to the arrest of the tree killer. Call Elton Pon at 415-831-2782.

NIHART: 5-YEAR PLAN

Pacifica City Council member Mary Ann Nihart posted on Pacifica Riptide: “Traditionally,

August has been held as vacation month for staff members as well as City Council. But council meetings are not the only meetings attended. This week alone I have four scheduled meetings as well as other tasks related to council work. The meetings are only a very small part. In addition, largely due to our financial situation and the necessary negotiations with employees, in January I took a voluntary one-year 20 percent cut in that pay. Some others have taken cuts, too, so I would double-check the previously quoted per-month salary. As a council, we need to continue to set the tone and leadership to walk ourselves out of our current financial straits. City Manager Steve Rhodes and I are willing to meet with any group of citizens to answer questions and discuss our five-year financial plan. Please feel free to contact me at 650-359-7624 or Mr. Rhodes at City Hall and we will be happy to schedule a time to talk and answer questions. I remain hopeful for our future if

we work together. I encourage everyone to get involved, get informed, ask questions, and discuss solutions. “Together we can thrive!” is NOT just a campaign slogan. It is my earnest belief.”

GAZA HELP

University student Ahmed Al-Khatib, a Palestinian in political asylum from Gaza, has lived in Pacifica since 2005. He learned that his younger sister, a dentistry student in Gaza, needs financial assistance to transfer to Gaza’s Al Azhar University. The university she had been attending was shut down abruptly due to political unrest and instability. If you are willing to join Ahmed in a fundraising effort to help his sister, please contact Delia McGrath at 650-359-0339 or email her at deliaforpeace@yahoo.com.

DUKE OF HURL

I ran into one of hurling’s superstars in Linda Mar last week as he whacked a hard little ball around our parking lot with a long wooden bat like a hockey stick on steroids. He said that he and his countrymen were here in town for the hurling games out on Treasure Island. Todd Bray informs me that these blokes are Ireland’s national champion hurlers.

IPOOD VS. IPOD

The iPod is a small spade used by Australian campers to bury their waste in the woods. But iPod now has a new name after

Apple Inc. lawyers protested to iPod maker Sea to Summit: “iPod is clearly similar to Apple’s iPod, there being merely a single letter difference. For obvious reasons, Apple’s reputation for clean design and high-tech electronics will suffer should it be associated with latrines and the like through Sea to Summit’s use of iPod.” Sea to Summit caved and renamed it Pocket Trowel. The Perth-based outdoor/adventure outfitter had registered iPod as a trademark in Australia in 2006, after “identifying a hole in the market.” (July 22: reghardware.com, seatosummit.com)

LIGHTS ON—ANYONE HOME?

Lionel Emde posted on Pacifica Riptide: “Here’s a story for Pacifica voters to consider (July 28, almanacnews.com). A minority on the Menlo Park City Council actually listened to what local hoteliers said about how bad business is, and stopped a measure identical to the one Pacifica has put on the November ballot to raise our hotel tax (TOT). How well are Pacifica’s six hotels doing in comparison?”

WATERCOLORS: OPEN SPACES

Trevlyn Williams’ new watercolor work entitled Open Spaces features paintings of the coast and Peninsula: favorite old places such as Edgewood Natural Preserve and new locations such as coastal state parks Ano Nuevo and Moss Landing.

Williams donates 10 percent of sales proceeds to either Friends of Edgewood or a fund supporting open spaces featured in the paintings. Show continues until August 21 at Gallery House, 320 California Avenue, Palo Alto. (trevlynwilliams.com)

NO UGLY HORSES

In the town of Wilbur, Washington it is illegal to own an ugly horse, according to the “Says You” quiz show on National Public Radio (NPR). Incidentally, Jake Sigg reports that “Says You” comes to San Francisco live next April, and you can order tickets online at saysyou.net.

SWAMI SEZ

“In this world of sin and sorrow, there is always something to be thankful for. As for me, I rejoice that I am not a Republican.” (H.L. Mencken)

SITSEER

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