

Wandering & Wondering



John Maybury



SHAME ON SARAH

A new campaign button says, "Attention, Sarah Palin: Jesus Christ Was a Community Organizer. Pontius Pilate Was a Governor." As a lifelong community organizer (but I never registered any dead people to vote), I join all community organizers in this country outraged at Palin's slurs on Barack Obama and his honorable service in ACORN, a Chicago neighborhood improvement organization much like our civic action groups here in Pacifica. I began campaigning for peace, civil rights, and reform candidates back in the early 1960s as a youngster. I continued unpaid public service throughout my student days. In 1968 I trained and served in President Lyndon Johnson's War on Poverty. As a VISTA Volunteer, I learned community organizing from ACORN-trained staff of the Office of Economic Opportunity (OEO) under Sargent Shriver. Our teams fanned out to help beleaguered tenants and welfare recipients in the ghettos of the South Bronx, Brooklyn, and Newark, New Jersey. Since my federal government service, I

have continued to do community organizing as a writer, editor, and researcher, always focusing on the noblest ideals of truth, democracy, peace, and justice. That's why I think that Palin, as a public servant herself, should also honor Obama's public service. After all, she herself became a mayor, governor, and vice-presidential candidate by doing community organizing. Her grandstanding pretense of being a political novice and outsider is sheer hypocrisy, the same kind of shape-shifting illogic that George W. Bush fed us when he ran for president the first time. When will Americans stop buying the Big Lie? Sarah Palin came up through the trenches the same as all other politicians. It is totally disingenuous of her to pretend otherwise. At least Obama is proud of his community organizing background, as most of us, his fellow community organizers, are.

CASINO NIGHT

Play games while giving back to the community, Saturday, September 13 from 7 to 10 p.m. at Visions Seaside Spa, 1009 Terra Nova Boulevard. Enjoy your favorite casino games, great prizes, and wonderful food by Barolo's. Everybody has a chance to win, but the community is the big winner. For tickets and information, contact president@pacificans-care.org or 650-355-4479.



INTERNATIONAL PEACE DAY

Celebrate International Peace Day (September 21) a day early by watching an inspirational film that Pacifica Friends of the Library is sponsoring, funded by the deanery of St. Andrew's Presbyterian

Church. Community Room, Sharp Park Library, Saturday, September 20, 3 p.m.

CANDIDATE CONFAB

Don't miss the City Council candidate debate Saturday, September 20, 9:30 a.m., Council Chambers, 2212 Beach Boulevard, kitty-corner from Sharp Park fishing pier.

MORFORD MOVE

The S.F. Chronicle may have banished controversial columnist Mark Morford from its print edition, but you still can find Morford on the Chron Web site sfgate.com. Go to the archive to read Morford's mordant words on how low the Republicans have stooped in picking yet another callow youth as vice-presidential candidate. (But maybe Dick Cheney and Sarah Palin will go on a long hunting trip together so he can tutor her on the fine points of avoiding the Dan Quayle syndrome.) To protest the column hushup, write Chron Exec Editor Ward Bushee at wbushee@sfnchronicle.com and/or letters@sfnchronicle.com. Meanwhile, with Morford's permission, PacificaRiptide posted a link to the column, with this greeting: "Welcome to the little blog at the beach!"

WATER WISDOM

The "Water-Wise Gardening in the Bay Area" CD is now available from Bay Area Water Supply and Conservation Agency (BAWSCA.org).

OLD IS COOL

Antique automobiles, bicycles, motorcycles, and streetcars are on display in History Park, San Jose, Sunday, September 14. (historysanjose.org)

SEE CLICK FIX

Bruce Hallman on PacificaRiptide.com: "SeeClickFix.com is an interesting collaborative Web2.0 application,

where people can mashup Google maps and report potholes or other community issues needing attention in Pacifica. Not much attention yet, but I added my personal top annoyance, that the bicycle lane on the shoulder of Highway 1 is dangerously blocked by weeds and brush southbound near Rockaway Beach. I would be curious to see other people's pet peeves, most hated potholes, etc. Use this online feature to report problems directly to City Hall." (City Manager Steve Rhodes and City Engineer Van Ocampo have shown readiness to respond to calls for help by putting up new safety signs at the confusing intersection of Francisco, Sharp Park, and Highway 1. Let's all use Bruce's site above to report other needed fixes around town.)

PACIFICANET CRISIS

"Veraloft LLC, parent company to PacificaNet, the citywide wireless Internet system, has not made any payments to the City of Pacifica, its landlord, since March. According to Pacifica city staff's report, '...the system has not gained the expected number of monthly customers and the cost to build and maintain the system is greater than anticipated.' It is a matter of concern not only for the 800 subscribers to PacificaNet but also city government, because the Public Works and Police departments both use the system. Veraloft is asking for a 67 percent reduction in its rent, currently \$7.50 per pole, down to \$2.50 per pole. In city staff's report, the financial cost to the city of this reduction will be \$15,570 per year, rising to \$20,760 in future years. City staff recommended that City Council, at its September 8 meeting, approve the reduction in rent and other lease changes." (Lionel Emde, PacificaRiptide.com.)

PACIFICA GREEN

Help make Pacifica a greener, more environmentally sound

community. Pacificans are uniting to make it happen. Our City Council is considering a ban on polystyrene containers still used in some restaurants, and other good things may follow, including a bag deposit to reduce demand for paper and plastic bags, and a ban on gas-powered leaf-blowers. Maybe you have some ideas to share. Let's work together. Email Bill Collins at 4116bc@gmail.com

HEALTH CARE BILLS

Ask the Gobernador to sign two historic health care bills that just passed the Legislature. State Senator Sheila Kuehl authored both bills. SB 840 would establish single-payer universal health care. California would lead the way in the nation with this law. SB 1440 would limit insurance company profits, which now run 20 percent to 30 percent. Call Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger at 916-445-2841; write to Governor, State Capitol, Sacramento, CA 95814; or email gov.ca.gov.

OBAMA, NEVADA

Spend a weekend in Nevada to register voters or get out the vote (GOTV) for Obama, September 19-21. Go to BarackObama.com. On the top of the screen, select "Events" for zip code 94044, and search "5 miles" to see a listing of all dates, including October 3-5 and 17-19, and October 31-November 4 (Election Day). Info: Nancy Goodban, MoveOn Regional Coordinator, 650-365-3520 (home office), 650-787-9859 (cell)

WAY TO GO, RICH

Pacifica Planning Commissioner Rich Campbell was in the news last week in his capacity as attorney for the federal Environmental Protection Agency. Campbell was involved in EPA fining Waste Solutions for multiple pollution violations, including letting trash wash into San Francisco Bay. (Josh Gordon, PacificaRiptide.com)

RAVIN' ROB

Annette, who works the Roti chicken truck at the farmers market, recently found herself serving up a golden bird with roasted rosemary potatoes to local-boy-makes-good Rob Schneider. Her celebrity customer raved about the rotisserie chicken, one of the "hotter" items at the mart.



SWINGIN' SEGWAY

Jim Heldberg's swingin' Segways cruise beachwalks and sidewalks all over town. Jim's futuristic-looking transporters are listed in the San Francisco Chronicle's Datebook section under Events: "Segway Tours in Pacifica, 205 Rockaway Beach, 650-355-8655, segwayofsf.com."

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