

Wandering & Wondering



John Maybury

BOOM TIMES

2007 will be boom times in Pacifica, as tunnelers begin to blast out rock for the new Devil's Slide tunnels. Stay tuned for Caltrans announcements: Duck and cover! Any naming rights yet? My bets are on Congressman Tom Lantos, who helped get it done, but my personal favorite would be Mitch Reid, although I know he is too modest to take credit for it. Jeff "Rockin" Raabe would love to see a Caltrans TunnelCam up there streaming a blow-by-blow account on the Internet.

DIE IS CAST

As torrential rains swell San

Pedro Creek, I wonder where all the water comes from the rest of the year when it doesn't rain. So what if you could place a nontoxic die in the water at Crystal Springs Reservoir to see if it turns up over here on the coast, and then if that doesn't trace, maybe try Lake Pilarcitos. If that failed, then I would truly believe that we here in Sun Valley are blessed with a granite sponge to our south, namely good old Montara Mountain. Montara, I hereby dub thee The Sponge.

NO SLOUCH

A new MRI study shows that leaning back at 135 degrees is better for you than sitting up straight or slouching forward. What a relief! All those years of doing the limbo might pay off for me now. (Source: Radiological Society of North America)

GESUNDHEIT!

Biotech firm Allerca is selling specially bred cats (at \$4,000 a pop) that won't make you sneeze or otherwise suffer from cat dander. The San Diego-based company has a waiting list for the hypoallergenic felines. (EarthWeek)

ALL ABOARD!

Amtrak offers special deals this winter on its trains heading north, east, and south from the Bay Area. Go to the mountains or the desert and see some righteous American scenery from your private bedroom or high-level coach seat. Use your AAA card for big discounts on sleepers, business class, or economy fares. Tickets, timetables, route maps, reservations: Amtrak.com

BAY WATCH

Sail, kayak, canoe, hike, birdwatch, plant, seed, restore habitat—these are just some of the things you can do this winter with Save the Bay. Sign up today and find out what this longtime Bay Area conservation group does: save SFbay.org, 510-452-9261

DOWN, BOY!

Tracy Strub wonders if the sequel to the two big World War II-era movie hits playing in theaters right now will be called "The Good German Shepherd."

HELP HARRISON

Donor drives to help bone marrow recipients like 2-year-old Harrison Leonardo (what a cute kid!) are being organized all around the Bay Area. Check helpharrison.com for ways you can help.

ROARING AND SNORING

Now you can camp out overnight inside the Wild Animal Park in Escondido (part of the greater San Diego Zoo), reports sleeping-bag sleuth Gary Hanauer. Go to sandiegozoo.org and keep one eye open all night.

HANG ON, SLOOPY

Liberty Mountain of Salt Lake City is recalling 5,900 Edelweiss Challenge climbing harnesses with faulty buckles on the leg loops that could pose a fall hazard for climbers. (S.F. Chronicle, Business, Dec. 17)

MEMORY LANE

Activist's perspective on the Civil Rights Movement, the Free Speech Movement (FSM), Students for a Democratic Society (SDS), and the

Weather
markrudd.com.

Underground:

DIPPITY DO

Shades of Fleishacker Pool! Next time you travel to Vancouver, B.C., check out Ariane Colenbrander's favorite heated outdoor saltwater pool at Kitsilano Park. It's 150 yards long and 20 yards wide. Whoa. (findfamilyfun.com/kitspool.htm)

LAW OF DUNCEHOOD

The probability of being watched is directly proportional to the stupidity of your act.

SITeseER

•Vertical gardens, organic architecture, vegetable suits: pingmag.jp (thanks, Ken Restivo)

•Original antique maps and sea charts, many rare finds, including Early California, found in a dusty old shop in Edinburgh: Carson Clark Gallery at edinburgh-royalmile.com or email scotmap@aol.com

•Stark 19th-century photography of the Midlands and eastern shore: Sutcliffe-gallery.co.uk

•National Railway Museum prints and posters: ssplprints.com

•Click to fight AIDS: LightToUnite.org (yo, Lynie)

•Fun and games for your cabin fever: steinauf.us

•Southern California train travel guide: railtorail.org

•Cool interiors: unicahome.com

•Steel cactus, glass birds, wild art: hotislandglass.com (thanks, Dale and Susan)

SWAMI SEZ

"I don't drink because I want to know when I'm having a good time." (Nancy Astor)

MAYBURRITOVILLE

Happy New Year from mayburrito@goofbuster.com a n d WanderingAndWondering.com.

Please visit the archives and read my columns and travel stories. They get better with time, just like wine, cheese, and me.