

Reaction

by Paul Azevedo



Do you think of Pacifica as an exciting place to live? I do. The reason is: Edges.

We live on the edge of everything. For example, we live at the edge of the sea. A few hundred feet from the edge of the city is the edge of the sea. A whole different world lives there, taking little notice of us, except perhaps when we dump our sewer into it.

We live on the edge of hills and valleys. Climbing the hills, or going down to the valleys, we change our perspective with every step.

THE HILLS divide our city. Each part of town has a distinctive climate, a distinctive character defined by the way it treats the hills.

Vallemar snuggles down in its valley, nestling among its trees, and looks up at the hills. In Park Pacifica they filled up the valleys, and built on the hills. In Sharp Park they look toward the sea. On Pedro Point they took to the hills for a better view of the sea.

The hills keep us from becoming a mixed porridge pouring together without distinctiveness or character. Edges.

OUR CITY IS exciting because it has for so many years been on the edge of failure. But its very struggles are exciting. Long City Council meetings, critical harangues, infighting, all problems, but they are also symptoms of people who know that they can still have input into the direction this city is going. Not all agree which way we should go, but as long as we are concerned, and keep putting our effort into it, we will have impact.

We are exciting because while we have long been on the edge of failure, there is a strong feeling, too, that we are also on the edge of success. Our decisions, our commentary, our effort can still make our city successful. How you define that success is one of the problems to be solved.

But we live on the edge. Like the birds who live on the edge of field and forest, we can go both ways. On the east the edge is the San Francisco watershed properties, an edge of wilderness that joins with lakes and hills to divide us from the rest of the peninsula.

ON THE SOUTH is the mountain edge.

Thousands of us migrate daily to the edge at the north, the urban metropolis we call the The City, another kind of edge which strongly affects our lives.

Even the weather is affected by our edges. Fogs are created by edges. The winds that sweep down from the hills are caused by edges.

You and I live in an exciting place. Pacifica's first twenty years can be the start of our push to the edge of success, and on, to a community that we will all appreciate living in.

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