

# The Reactor

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## Sending Pacifica to Sweden

I have an assignment for you. I want you to help my daughter and me put together a birthday package to send to her pen pal, Peter, in Sweden. We'll send it surface mail. Avoid items that are heavy, perishable or expensive. The theme is "A Trip to Pacifica" and the idea is a group of objects that summarize Pacifica.

We started out with this issue of the Tribune, which should give Peter some idea of what we're about. Then we might include some eucalyptus leaves and seed pods, Monterey cypress needles, and some tules from the Laguna Salada, a fuchsia flower and leaf, and an artichoke leaf, all the plant life well encased in plastic. I had suggested some poison oak, also encased, but I was overruled.

An abalone shell, a sand dollar, a turban shell and a mussel shell, together with a vial of sand, would all tell the story of our beaches. A Chamber of Commerce directory and a Chamber map of Pacifica would be next. The map has photos of some of our landmarks like the Little Brown Church. Let's include Xeroxes of the cover of Jack Wagner's "The Last Whistle" (the book about the Ocean Shore Railway), cartoons by Tom Jackson and Jack Mat-suoka, and a Xerox of the cover of Malcolm Margolin's "The Ohlone Way." Post cards of the San Francisco Bay Discovery site and the discovery painting of Portola would be appropriate. Let's add Dena Savage's "Land Called Pacifica" and the La Peninsula article about the Sanchez Adobe by Shirley Drye. Certainly we need a SamTrans bus schedule, transit map and BART ticket with five cents left. A cassette tape might include sounds of ocean waves, perhaps the sounds of a City Council meeting, and the voice of a dove in the distance, as well as children playing at Cooper's Corner, Father Calegari sermonizing at St. Peter's Catholic Church and a Pacifica reference librarian giving some information on Sundbyberg, Sweden. We can tape a Swedish-speaking Terra Nova student extending birthday greetings.

The Tribune's files can provide a tourist guide, a Fog Fest program, a Coastside cookbook and a 25th anniversary historical program.

We'll include some memorabilia from Nick's 60th anniversary celebration, add a menu or a wine list, plus a matchbook from the Lighthouse, a tortilla and a business card from Playade Acapulco, a menu and a score card from Sharp Park Golf Course, targets from the rifle range and the archery range. The RV park can furnish some literature, and to show our democratic process in action, we can include a voter registration card.

San Pedro Valley Park can furnish a bobcat lapel button. We'll add a TCI channel card, political buttons, bumperstrips and campaign literature from Jackie Speier, Quentin Kopp, Ginny Jaquith, the Friends of Pacifica, Pete Murray and Fred Howard.

Let's not forget a Lou Papan potholder. A copy of C.H. Hollander's biography of Father Adalbert Gluszek would be appropriate, and perhaps a Terra Nova commencement program as well.

You've seen what we've come up with so far. What can you add? Hopefully it should be something in some way unique to Pacifica. A Denny's menu or a McDonald's napkin probably wouldn't do it. We've probably overlooked a number of excellent ingredients. Send me some candidates.

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