



Wandering & Wondering

John Maybury

THE ONLY WAY TO FLY

“My experience is that of the three modes of mechanized transport I use, trains are by far the most liberating. Planes are awful: waiting to clear security, then having to sit with your electronics turned off during takeoff and landing, no place to go if you want to get up in any case. Cars - well, even aside from traffic jams (tell me how much freedom you experience waiting for an hour in line at the entrance to the Lincoln Tunnel), the thing about cars is that you have to drive them, which kind of limits other stuff.

But on a train I can read, listen to music, use my aircard to surf the web, get up and walk to the cafe car for some Amfood; oh, and I'm not restricted by the War on Liquids. When I can, I prefer to take the train even if it takes a couple of hours more, say to get to Boston, because it's much higher-quality time. Yes, your choices are limited by the available trains; if I wanted to take a train from beautiful downtown Trenton to DC tomorrow, I'd be restricted to one of 21 trains, leaving roughly once an hour if not more often, whereas if I wanted to drive I could leave

any time I wanted. Big deal. And don't get me started on how much more freedom of movement I feel in New York, with subways taking you almost everywhere, than in, say, LA, where you constantly have to worry about parking and traffic. So if trains represent soulless collectivism, count me in.” (Paul Krugman, New York Times columnist, Princeton University economist, and Nobel Prize winner, responding to conservative commentator George Will, who had described passenger train riding as “soulless collectivism.”)

BURRITO BLOW-UP

San Antonio, Texas — A Taco Bell drive-through customer who became enraged because of a price increase on Beefy Crunch Burritos fired a BB gun through the window at a manager on Sunday, police said. No one was hurt from the shots fired by the man, who also waved a pistol and an assault rifle in the parking lot, Police Sergeant Chris Benavides said. As the restaurant's employees and customers hit the floor, the manager called police, and when officers arrived, the angry patron fired several shots at the police cars, Benavides said. The man then barricaded himself inside a nearby motel room, sparking a standoff that lasted until police lobbed tear gas inside and the man surrendered. Benavides said the burritos had been sold for 99 cents each as a promotion, but the man was apparently angry that the promotion had ended, and the price had gone up to \$1.49. The name of the “taco rage” suspect has not been

released because he had not yet been formally charged early Monday. Benavides said that the man will be charged with three counts of attempted capital murder, and that additional charges are possible. The man never did get his burritos. (Reuters)

SUPER SOAKERS

It may be spring according to the calendar, but in San Pedro Valley County Park in the back of Linda Mar, winter was still alive and well last weekend. As of March 26, the rain gauge was showing nearly 49 inches of precipitation (see photo), and the rainy season runs until June 30. The park is already famous for Brooks Falls, which is a torrent right now, but check out the little brooks surging with runoff all over the park. To walk through there is a symphony of water music. Several days ago, I was approaching the farthest bridge over the creek's middle fork, when three wild turkeys came in for a landing, flaps down. Pretty impressive wingspan. They strutted around

in the grass, pecking for food. Off in the distance I saw what looked like the face of a mountain lion hiding in the tall grass, and I felt a little nervous until I refocused and saw that it was the rear end of a grazing deer.

SWAMI SEZ

“Everyone is entitled to his own opinion but not his own facts.” (Daniel Patrick Moynihan)

SITeseer

- German engineered screw-drive tricycle: msnbc.msn.com (see photo)
- Massachusetts approves new Pirate Party: rawstory.com
- Test your knowledge of American history and government: americancivilliteracy.org

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WEATHER DATA			
	7-1-07-6-30-08		→ 28.23"
RAIN	7-1-08-6-30-09	SEASON	28.57"
	7-1-09-6-30-10		"
	CURRENT	SEASON-	48.98
24 HOUR TOTAL			1.25
TEMPS	HI 57	LOW	49
BAROMETER 8 AM			29.00

