

CANYONS, CLIFFS & CLOUDS

I just returned from a train trip on Amtrak's California Zephyr through the colorful canyons and gorges of Utah and Colorado. See my photo gallery "Canyons, Cliffs & Clouds" on the right sidebar of Riptide. Three simple observations about the American railroading experience: Thousands of boulders perched on steep hillsides never fall when your train is passing by. People dump enormous quantities of trash alongside backyard fences and railroad tracks. People wave at arriving and departing trains, but not at buses and airplanes. If you want to see some of this gorgeous scenery for yourself, much of it accessible only by rail, get yourself an Amtrak Guest Rewards MasterCard and start racking up travel points for your next train ride.

SCOTT'S AVIARY

"A pair of white-breasted crows have been hanging out near my place on Lerida. Through Google, I learned that these are African pied crows and are tropical birds that aren't supposed to be here. My first-ever blue doves selected my tree for their "Motel 6." At the same time, a pair of pied crows also chose the same tree for their overnigher. A tree in the yard is full of pollen and buzzing with busy bees. The pollen is giving me allergy fits, but I'm happy to see happy bees." (Scott McKellar, Upper Sun Valley)

JEFF'S CAR TIP

"The main mechanic from the old Dave & Lou's service

station just opened the repair side as his own business, separate from the Alliance gas station. Rafael Martinez is his name. Super nice guy, as always.” (Jeff Bagshaw)

PIERRE’S DREAM

“I keep having this dream. After winning the presidential nomination at the GOP convention, Donald Trump takes the podium and says: ‘I am not really running. It was all just a joke. I am outta here.’ A man can dream, can’t he?” (Pierre Messerli)

PIGS ON THE RUN

Two pigs wearing harnesses were seen walking up Crespi, according to a recent Pacifica Police Beat report in the Pacifica Tribune.

MULTITASKER

Saw a skateboarder nonchalantly gliding around the busy Linda Mar shopping center parking lot while eating ice cream with a spoon.

LIKE MOTHER’S MILK

Newly available in U.S. stores is A2 milk, which Australians and New Zealanders have enjoyed for the past decade. A2 is cow’s milk as it was meant to be, the closest thing to mother’s milk, to enjoy without digestive distress. Cows in Asia and Africa still produce A2 milk, but in the Western world we have bred cows that produce only A1 milk, which is less friendly to the human gut.

PERFECT SOLUTIONS

Wall Street Journal columnist Joe Queenan (June 11) imagined what he would create with a \$100 million MacArthur grant: a universal TV remote that actually works, a presidential candidate no one hates, pitchers who can bunt, a way to keep able-bodied people from parking in disabled parking, among other things.

SWAMI SEZ

“Never slap a man who’s chewing tobacco.” (Will Rogers)

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