

May, 2005

Exciting Days on the Road

It's been a fun-filled evening commute these past few days. Last Thursday and Friday's trip home were over 80 minutes. Some dude came blazing up the right-hand of two left-turn lanes in Leesburg as we were headed north and cut right in front of me. I try to keep my eyes open and have good peripheral vision but things as reckless as that you don't really expect. Had I decided to punch it for some reason before seeing that dude, there might have been an accident.

Today's ride was over 55 minutes in and 60 home. There was the typical guy on my bumper who I was so glad to have pass me. I was not sure if he was going to...it did him no good. I had slowed down and opened up a big gap in front of me because I saw traffic was stopped. That did not deter the guy behind me. He blazed on by only to have to come to an abrupt stop shortly thereafter. You can always tell the nutbags out there by the amount of brake dust on their front wheels.

After 115,000 miles on my recently traded in Neon, I had only had the front brake pads replaced. When in Maine, I pause for claws. Generally, I am not heavy on the breaks. I like it smooth...like jazz.

Computer Buffoonery

I spend all day busting my butt to fix computers. I get home and need to do some work on my own computers. I bought an HP Deskjet 5740 weeks ago to replace my second Epson printer that died on me. I never could get the HP to work on my W2K box. I almost had it working on my Redhat 9.0 box but found out I needed Fedora.

Not yet ready to upgrade to Fedora for fear of losing all my email, I got a PCI USB 2.0 card for my W2K box thinking maybe I had a problem with the onboard USB ports since I always got errors while installing the printer that indicated USB problems. Well that did not work.

I bought a new ViewSonic 17" monitor for my Redhat box because I thought the 10 year old Maginovision 15" monitor had finally bit the dust. I was wrong. I still had horizontal streaks across the monitor. So today, as well as installing the USB card that did not help, I replaced the video card in my Redhat box. At the same time, I replaced the power supply because the cooling fan had bit the dust and the power supply was slowly burning out leaving an obnoxious stench in my apartment.

Now I have a new monitor and power supply as well as replacement video card in the Redhat box which work well. I guess I should be happy but I would be happier if my printer, which works fine on my work laptop with XP, worked on my home W2K box.

Dis Laundry Revisited

I think that I have hit on this one before but it still causes me grief.

I am not really sure how to deal with this since I don't want to stir up trouble for asking that people, like the others that live in my house with three apartments, be courteous. Numerous times I have taken laundry out of the dryer that has been sitting there for over twelve hours so I can do laundry. I tend not to take action when there is laundry in both the washer and the dryer assuming the individual responsible has a handle on the procedure. When they leave both appliances sitting late in the evening without action I get a bit annoyed.

I have made it my policy, out of respect for my cohabitants, to promptly move my laundry from one appliance to the other, finish my it up, and let others have access. I don't see my cohabitants reciprocating. I have even had my laundry, just finished in the washer, taken out and put on the dryer which was still running. It's not like their laundry process is going to go any faster. I still have to dry mine so theirs is just going to sit in the washer until mine is done.

I am not real thrilled with moving their laundry from the washer to the dryer as the process would require. I am not getting paid to do their laundry. So if they've got laundry in both the washer and the dryer, both loads are coming out to sit until attended to. Let the molding begin... Now if I could only mold more people in my own image.

Credit: Gov't Wants It Both Ways

It is ironic that, shortly after the government makes it harder for individuals to declare bankruptcy, "Federal banking regulators yesterday warned banks and other lenders to be more selective about who can get home equity loans and lines of credit because rising interest rates may make it harder for people to repay their loans," according to the Washington Post article "U.S. Warns Lenders To Elevate Standards."

Regulators, worried that consumers are over extended, that the housing bubble may burst, and that consumers will not be able to afford higher interest payments, say that consumers will begin to default on their loans. I have espoused this viewpoint for a couple of years now and continue to believe in it. While I wish no one ill will, I do believe that trouble is on the horizon and that part of it is due to loose lending standards created by the desires of banks and mortgage purchasers to make the big bucks.

Newsweek To Be Held Accountable for Riots in Afganistan?

I see that the Bush administration and the Afghan government say that Newsweek should be held accountable for damage done to the U.S. image and Afghan citizens and property as a result of a supposedly ill researched report on mistreatment of the Koran by U.S. employees at Guantanamo Bay. Right! And Al Jazeera will be held accountable for deaths of Iraqis and Americans in Iraq caused by nationalist and/or Muslim sentiments inflamed by their broadcasts!

Government Wisdumb

Please save us from ourselves and our elected officials. Why does the House want to turn back the clock and bar women in the armed forces from some combat positions? According to the Washington Post article, "More Objections to Women-in-Combat Ban", "...22,000 Jobs Would Be Affected." Now how does that, not only advance the cause of women in the armed forces, but help maintain force strength at a time when recruiting nears an all time low?

Avoid the Void

Woke to see the space empty this morning which we obviously cannot have. So I will complain about my blog software which once again blew away, before I could post, a fairly carefully worded commentary on our representatives plans to pull women out of over 20,000 positions available to them in the military. But since those plans have been rescinded, going into more details would be pointless. Just like this entry.

I went to the blog software site to see if there was a way I could avoid doing this in the future only to find them down since Easter due to having been hacked! I guess I got off easy.

Parroting Life

Camped at a friend's place on the Shenandoah River south of Front Royal for the Memorial Day weekend. As usual, there were port-a-potty's on either side of the camping area. The crapper company's web site was "www.polyjohn.com" and where that idea came from I don't know. All I could think of was a motto for their business: "Polly Want a Crapper!"