

WEST CODES

David Buuck

Lebec Rest Area &
my I-5 eyeballs hurt
exhaust corridor
thru rolling hills
water in the distance

to know this landscape
only by car & road-
side banalities
crash course in citizen-
ship, consuming even

when moving
rest area leaves
turning brown, brittle
it's 3 pm, one double
cheeseburger, one diet

Coke — it's my legs
more than my back
or neck, & how
the brain stands down
thru central CA,

how I am unable
to register 'culture'
as my own optics
are thus trained &
limited — \$31.56 for

11.1 gallons @ \$2.84
plus \$3.43 for Vitamin
Water & pretzels
@4:30
unknown exit

trailing a tanker
trailer
The air
tastes of it, the
whole GD affair

Helicopter crop

duster
packing peanuts
float & swarm
across the highway

palm trees surround
the exit ramp motels
at Lemoore/Hanford
exit
“retaining walls”

almond farm along
the aqueduct
“a counterfeit map —
it does not depict
California”

David Byrne moments
5:15 100845 “that’s
synthetic. Books —
a second-hand experience.”
burrowing through

Cowschitz — feel
it in my eyes, sooty
methane caked on
my context lenses
“the envisioned map

of California, which is
spurious, fades out”
whispers the speakers,
the air thick in my
eyes, sick in my

lungs.
100917
TA Travel Center
I think the 5 as
SF — LA but the socio-

logics out here
challenge that.
Wondering what will
happen to these
travel islands if/when

the train goes thru—

Schwarzenegger country —
big trucks & SUVs &
vans, minimal stickers
or signs of overt political

sentiments, the marketing
(for Skoal, 2-for-1 cigarettes)
still implies a demo-
graphic — the eye-5
an American highway,

It's 6:12 pm, unknown exit.
Stanislaw County
acid rain hits the baked
pavement, smells like
toxic summer.

“the empire is the
codification of
derangement”
says PK Dick, right
here in my truck, fuming —

Landers — Oakland, Oct 31, 2008