

Well, this weekend was a bust. My plan of doing a story on *[Duel of the Burger Dynasties](#)* went bust.

The idea was to do a photo-essay comparing **Tommy's** with **McDonald's**. The original Tommy's is up in Los Angeles, and the oldest remaining McDonald's (the 4th built) is in Downey. How could I go wrong?

First, I planned a refueling of the Jaguar. This is not the same as “getting gas” in your car. The Jag has 2 gas tanks, and 2 fillers, one on each side of the car. This is complicated by the latest gas-pump configuration which has a **very short hose**.



Refueling the right side.

You may have noted my positioning is... Ummm... “very British”. Note the (short) length of hose.



OK here we are refueling the left tank.

Well off-I-go and despite some trafficky points, I homed-in on Tommies... When I was **300 yards** from my final turnpoint, I got stopped-cold by **the Los Angeles marathon**. Rats.

But OK I'll improvise and get the pics at McDonalds, so headed south and got myself on Florence Ave, **stop and go** heading for the town of Downey. As the Jag was of course getting hot (so was I) the windows are down. Now –honest, I'm not making this up- a nice Mexican couple hollered over **Hey are you going to the car-show at the Downey McDonalds?** Great. Now I know why I'm going 5mph and it's seven miles to Downey and the-whole-world is also going there except I have a heavy clutch, no a/c, and a hot engine. **Dejected, I head for home.**

***** **Part-2** *****

Not much of a story, huh? Well then how about **my buddy Joe?** Quite a guy. In '73 he was Kibbutzing in Israel when the '73 war broke out, he was instantly drafted (“Here’s your howitzer, please be careful”).

Well he's prone to fast-action and 2 weeks ago said *lets go skiing* and so we did. The next day.



Now Joe's got this neato GMC Yukon with monster-mirrors, and I always wanted to take a pic of the desert landscape encountered on the way to Mammoth. Note the dry desert. Where is the snow?



Well 4 hours later we see this...



Wow. Amazing what 300 miles north, and a 6,000' altitude will do for the climate.



Joe is a "gear guy". This costume is very-high-tech.



Me riding the gondola. Fast & warm!



Huge mountain ("**Mammoth**") and it's all ours!
Note that Joe is a boarder, and I use "ski-boards" a sort of "mini-ski".



This is the future! Note my 1-piece suit, IMHO “the only way to fly”. It is windy, maybe 20mph, about 20F degrees, I am toasty-warm in my cocoon.

Joe is a snow-boarder and these kneel-down maneuvers are part of the snowboard game (not for me. But neither are ski’s. I think ski-boards are the best of both worlds).



Ha! There goes Joe, the whole run to himself. I followed and in my zealous pursuit, did a spectacular face-plant. I would have gotten-away pain-free but I hit right on the pocket where my camera was. **Ouch.**



Later I screwed up the lift-line, so ended on the chair ahead of Joe. Photo-op!



The next run...



Mr. Handsome, chair-buddy. Lunch-time (below pic).



What \$13 buys you for lunch...



Back up the hill, me getting off the chair...



Note that boarders have to find a bench (or sit in the snow) to strap themselves into their board. Note that Joe is just off the chair but has not yet strapped-in.



Oh yeah we were up there for 2 nights, “slopeside” (the only way to go; skip the hassle of getting yourself to the lift-line).

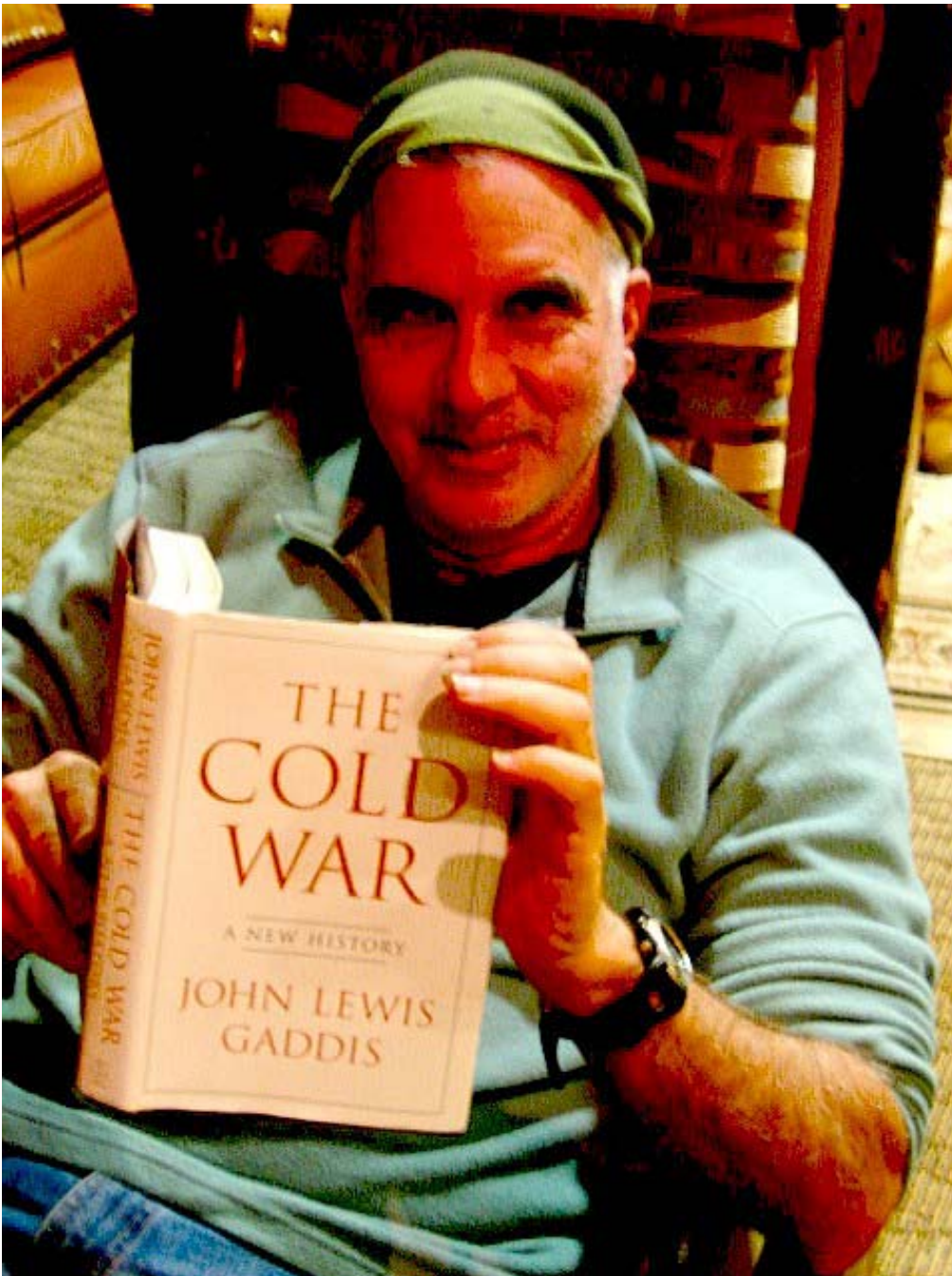
Being like-minded, we instantly trashed our room. Very “homey” we thought.



Pretty hard to believe we were there for just 2 days. (I tremble at the thought of “a **weeks** skiing gear”).
Apres-ski!



Joe's an intellectual. He's reading *The Cold War* and I'm goofing off in the lodge.



Well we made it home in fine style, neither of us banged-up or sore. Modern medicine!

***** **Bonus Story** *****

My neighborhood! That's my apartment building, the grass (more pics later) is the "common area".



Here's the cement-canyon, my apt on the right...



There are only 24 single-family homes (5,000 yes five-thousand condo units **so far**). Got a spare \$3 million? Here's what you get (3 stories, 2800sf, 2-car garage).



Condo's everywhere! And more building (another 5,000 units). **[Playa Vista the new Calcutta!](#)**

In all directions, everywhere you look, this is what you see...



Here's the "town"... A dry-cleaners, beauty-supply shop, coffee shop, that's it "downtown Playa Vista".



Here's the "concert park". In 3 years, 1 concert.
Nobody knows when the next one will be.



Note the construction in the background... Not the same construction as in the other "construction-pic". Truthfully I'm glad I'm a *renter*.

Below is the doggie free-run park. More construction!



Well hey 21 pages... And I didn't get to do my burger-shoot. Rats.

The next 2 weeks will be utilized getting ready for the 1st model stunt-flying contest of the year. I'll be ready!

Note my hobby room... A "chick-repeller" for sure!



Enjoy the day!

Paul P.

