

My Trek to Midland

I have two days to prepare for my trip to Midland, Michigan, home of the famous Dow Chemical Corporation. I am starting a new job there, and will need to stay for a total of two nights in the local area. Costs must be kept at a minimum. I have been unemployed for almost six months now and my funds are virtually non-existent. I will need to utilize the tools I have on hand and as for food, I will need to pack as much as I can to avoid spending money. With luck I will complete the journey, and having worked three days, will have earned enough money to bring a little extra home. This is not merely a short two hour trip up north, but an exercise in self sustenance.

Preparation

I have an Acura CL (1997) that will be my primary mode of transportation. The car however has not had an oil change in over a year, has hardly any tire pressure and is quite dirty. I will need to drive to Uncle Ed's Oil Shoppe to change the oil, Discount Tire to fix the tires, and the local car wash to clean out the insides and outsides.

The trip to Midland takes approximately 2 hours from my house in Ann Arbor, Michigan. I will need both gas and entertainment to make the interstate drive. I have burned the first four sections (approximately 4 hours worth) of Dale Carnegie's How to Influence People. Perhaps it could help me with my new job. I also burned some Beethoven, the 5th and 6th symphonies, for relaxation. Either way I have plenty of material while I'm in the car.

To arrive in a timely manner (my job starts at 8:00am, Monday morning) I need good directions. I also need an inside map of Dow so I know where to go once inside. I will need to be properly dressed and have the necessary identification and security badge on hand. To counter my sleep a cup of coffee couldn't hurt. I will also need a lunch and some cash.

After my work day I will need to find a motel, the cheaper the better. Here I will regroup, eat dinner, and work on this article. Everything's digital now, so I will need my Sony Vaio laptop. For relaxation at the end of the day, I might watch a couple of episodes of The Office. Finally, going to sleep I will take a couple of Clozapams and read a chapter out of The Gunslinger series by Stephen King (I'm currently reading The Waste Lands. Remember to set an alarm; I will need to be up by 6:00am.

This pattern will repeat again for Tuesday and Wednesday, and Wednesday I will make the trip back to Ann Arbor to see my family. Then I will make the trip again Thursday morning, stay overnight, and return for