



## If you go chasing rabbits

Posted by [Elwood Goulart](#) in [Woody Goulart's Blog](#) on May 21, 2014 3:52:00 PM

How we get to work makes a huge difference in how we function after we have actually arrived at work. My thoughts on this subject have grown from some unusual personal experience that I share here with you.

In 2013, I became one of those "super-commuters" (people who travel more than 90 miles to work) when I first started working in Corporate Communications at the San Francisco headquarters of Union Bank. At the time, I was a resident of Las Vegas, Nevada, which just happens to be more than 90 miles from work in San Francisco!

At the start of each work week, I would fly from Las Vegas to San Francisco—just over an hour flying time. I then would live in a San Francisco hotel room for a few nights before flying back home to Las Vegas towards the end of the week.

This was really fun and very fulfilling. It happens that the San Francisco and Las Vegas airports both are very contemporary. Both also offer a very high amount of creature comforts for the weary traveler. Las Vegas also has other creatures at the airport—giant jackrabbits.



In real life, there are wild jackrabbits running free every day throughout the Las Vegas Valley, but they are small and elusive. These three-dimensional art objects at the Las Vegas airport are concrete and not very subtle. I could imagine what horror would be felt by some unsuspecting tourist who loses a ton of money and then encounters the giant jackrabbits for the first time after too many Jack Daniel's.

I looked forward to seeing the concrete jackrabbits twice each week. To me, they symbolized the comforting concept of coming home. And yes, I saw positive changes in myself that were directly attributable to being a "super-commuter" week after week.

Mark Twain wrote, "Broad, wholesome, charitable views of men and things cannot be acquired by vegetating in one little corner of the earth all one's lifetime." For me, the experience of living in two very different cities for an extended period of time taught me much about humanity that I did not know I did not know. I also am a better man for learning how to sleep well in insufficient personal space inside a jet aircraft or a hotel room.

Each week, my colleagues at work would ask me how I was feeling. They knew as I know now that there's a definite "look" one gets in the eyes and on a tired face after repeated business travel. To be honest, there are a lot of important lessons out there to be learned through travel about humanity and things. One of life's lessons is that no matter how much or how far we may travel, we all need a place that we can hold in our minds and hearts as home.

Written by [Woody Goulart](#)

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 Interesting article and very well written.  
 Cheers!  
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**Lauren Kitagawa** Jul 11, 2014 5:02 PM  
 Thank you for sharing, [Elwood Goulart](#) - I like the photo you included, too!  
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**Victoria Wendt** Jul 17, 2014 4:14 PM  
 Best watch out for any hookah-smoking caterpillars near those rabbits!  
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**Mike Chi** Jul 29, 2014 10:10 AM  
 Woody, great post, I really enjoyed reading it! I use to have a long commute a few years ago, and I really sense how you are a 'glass is half full' kind of person and made the best of the situation. During the years I had the long commute, I was in the best physical condition in my life, because I had to be rolling out of my garage every morning to miss the traffic, but would get a work out at the gym near my office before starting my day. I also had great conversations with all my friends and family, because alot of 'road time' and would be catching up with all of them during my drive home.  
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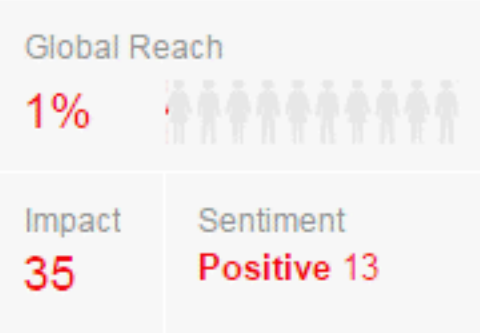
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