

# Facing Facts: Life Is Disappointing

BY TOBIN BARNES

Let's face facts. Lay our cards on the table...all that stuff.

Life is disappointing. Even when you think things are going to be neat, they don't turn out to be as neat as when you first thought they would be.

For example, I just know I'm headed for a big disappointment with the TV show "Lost." That's the only possible resolution of finding myself lost in this galloping enigma of a series. (Of course, that last statement is a major paradox, but it's just jam-packed with essential truth, if you think about it.)

I've been on and off with that show throughout the years of its run. It has pulled me in and then pushed me away.

That's because it's an evil tease. And that's because anything can happen. Literally.

Even dead people can come back to life...many times!

Characters are supposedly living parallel lives, for crying out loud. You have no idea if anything is for real. It drives you nuts.

Why do I put myself through this agony of being jerked around by this monstrously erratic pot-boiler? My wife smartened up long ago and doesn't watch it anymore. So why do I persist? Why am I religiously watching the last "Lost" episodes?

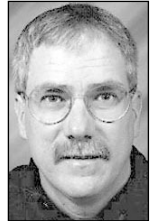
Heck, they probably aren't even the last episodes. There's sure to be a prequel after the end...or maybe a movie...or even a prequel-sequel combo.

I just know I'm going to be disappointed.

Here I am, poor naïf, waiting for all the pieces to come together, and I know I'm going to be left with a big cornball explanation instead. The show implies that there's some Einsteinian undercurrent to all the weird island madness, but you got to know that it's all going to turn out to be a flim-flam of Daffy Duck proportions.

I know I'm going to be disappointed. Just you wait and see.

And while we're at it, here's another thing that disappoints me. (Yeah, I've got a list.)



Barnes

It really irritates me that the music of my youth has become elevator music. The 60's and early 70's stuff. I hear it in the background all over the place now. It's become mood music.

It's the vanilla ice cream of tunes. In my last days in the nursing home I'm going to hear "Born to Be Wild" piped into the sitting room speakers. I knew that this was going to happen when they started using Led Zeppelin songs to sell Cadillacs some years ago.

When it first came out, my music was the rocky road of ice creams with big chunks of stuff throughout it that made adults think the world was going to hell in a hand basket.

It was totally different from the adult music of Frank Sinatra, Andy Williams, and Tennessee Ernie Ford—one of the many reasons we loved it. It was hell's-a-poppin' music that freaked Ed Sullivan and encouraged mothers to hide their children.

It inspired young people to abandon socks. (What a rebellious step that was. It drove principals crazy. Admittedly, that movement never made much sense, but there you go. Exactly what I'm talking about.)

Buzzcuts and Brylcreem disappeared almost overnight. It brought about the sign, "No shirt, no shoes, no service." It defined our cultural enemies to be "rednecks." And it helped stop a war.

Now it's the preferred rotation on Muzak.

This transition of my music has declared me officially old, thank you very much. I might as well be awarded a certificate.

What a disappointment.

**Tobin Barnes, a high school English teacher, gets his skewed viewpoints of life from starting too much at Crow Peak, which looms above his home a few miles outside Spearfish.**

# Water: Culprit And Tool For Same Problem

BY TOM AND RAY MAGLIOZZI

**Dear Tom and Ray:**  
I bought a '72 Porsche 914 a few weeks ago. It was running great for about 10 days. Then I took it through a carwash. When it came out, it ran terribly. It was underpowered, and sputtered whenever I hit the gas. Hoping to clear up the problem, I took it on a long trip (100+ miles), which brought its performance back to normal. Can you explain what happened? And can you tell me how I can prevent it from happening again?

— Jonathan

**TOM:** Sure. Hand-wash it.  
**RAY:** What happened was that you got something wet, and then you dried it out.

**TOM:** Right. That "something" is some part of the secondary ignition system.  
**RAY:** Electricity is supposed to travel from the coil to the distributor, and then through the spark-plug wires to the spark plugs.

**TOM:** If the insulation on one of those parts has been compromised, and moisture diverts the electricity from its intended destination, one or more of your spark plugs won't fire.



CLICK & CLACK

**RAY:** And that'll make the car sputter and seemed underpowered, because it IS underpowered. It's running on three (or fewer) cylinders.

**TOM:** Eventually, this problem will plague you in the rain, too, Jonathan. So you'd be wise

to fix it now.  
**RAY:** It should be easy to diagnose. Take a spray bottle and fill it with water. Then, on a dry night, open up the engine compartment, start the engine and begin spraying one suspect at a time.

**TOM:** First, spray the coil tower. That's where the coil wire plugs in. If you see sparks jumping in that area, the coil's no good, and it probably has a hairline crack in the tower.

**RAY:** If you don't see any sparks around the coil, then move on to the spark-plug wires. Spray them one at a time, starting at the spark plugs and moving toward the distributor. If you don't get any sparking around the wires, then spray the distributor itself.

**TOM:** Or if you want to save time, just skip the diagnosis and replace everything. Chances are, on a car of this age, you need all that stuff anyway. Good luck, Jonathan.

**Got a question about cars? Write to Click and Clack in care of this newspaper, or e-mail them by visiting the Car Talk Web site at [www.cartalk.com](http://www.cartalk.com).**

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# Summer Reading Registration Begins May 1

"Make a Splash @ your library" is the theme for our 2010 Summer Reading Program. This is a perfect theme for our area as we have a wide variety of resources close to home. These are just a few of the programs that the library will host:

Endangered Species of the Missouri River, Tropical Creations, water safety, ZooMobile from the Great Plains Zoo, Superhero Movies and You, the Fish Hatchery, a water magician, cheerleading, a television weather forecaster, story times, game days, Lego days, lots of water-related art activities and much, much more.

Our reading program will once again feature our store, the Coral Reef, where you can cash your reading bucks for fabulous prizes. You earn bucks by reading and keeping track of minutes. For every one hundred minutes you read, you earn one reading buck to spend at the store.

The reading program as well as the activities are suitable for all ages. Registration begins May 1 with our kick-off day set for June 7. Don't miss this fantastic fun-filled summer at the library!

We are still collecting baby food jars and cardboard paper towel holders for our crafts. You can drop them off at the library any time. Thanks for your help!

We will hold the last of our focus groups during the week of April 27. If you have not attended a focus group and would like to do so, please contact the library for further information. The online survey will close on May 1.

Thanks to those who took the time to attend a focus group or complete the online survey. Once we have gathered all of our information, it will be compiled by Planning and Development District III and presented to the Building Task Force. The library looks forward to finding ways to better serve the community through our programs and services.

Story time runs through May 15. During this session, we are focusing on community helpers. Each week, we highlight a different community helper and have special guests who read stories and demonstrate what they do in their jobs. All preschool through second grade children and their care providers are welcome to attend. Story times are held each week on Monday at 6:30 p.m., and Wednesday and Thursday at 10:15 a.m.

Readers Anonymous will discuss *Girl Who Played with Fire* by Larsson Stieg on May 11. This club, which is always open to new members, meets the second



Jacobs

Tuesday of each month, at 1 p.m.

The evening book club meets the third Tuesday of each month at 5:30 p.m. On May 18, they will discuss *Peace Like a River* by Leif Enger.

Once again, our patrons were extremely generous during our Food for Fines week. In April, we collected 105 packages of paper products for the Contact Center. Thanks! During May 8-16, we will collect tuna and Tuna Helper.

We are hosting two after school movies in May with a 3:45 p.m. start time. On May 13, *The Tooth Fairy* will be shown, and the popular new hit *The Princess and the Frog* will be shown on May 27. All ages are welcome to attend.

I know that some of you are already planning summer vacations. Don't forget to stop at the library to check out our newest Fodor's and Mobile travel guide books if you need information on your destination. You'll also want some entertainment as you travel. Here are some new books on CD for adults: *The Bride Collector* by Ted Dekker, *Southern Lights* by Danielle Steel, *Burning Lamp* by Amanda Quick,

The *Pallbearers* by Stephen J. Cannell, *The Sign* by Raymond Khoury, *The Chase* by Clive Cussler, *State of Fear* by Michael Crichton, *The Last Time I Saw You* by Elizabeth Berg, *The Cross Gardener* by Jason F. Wright, *The Shadow of Your Smile* by Mary Higgins Clark, and *The Walk* by Richard Paul Evans. Young adults might want to check out *Every Little Thing in the World* by Nina De Gramont or *This World We Live In* by Susan Beth Pfeffer.

We are looking for multiple copies of the following book titles so that we can make book kits for book clubs: *The Secret Life of Bees*, *Gilead*, *The Glass Castle*, *Vinegar Hill*, *Running with Scissors*, *The Road*, *Where the Heart Is*, and *Water for Elephants*. If you have any of these titles and would like to donate them to the library, please bring them to the desk and tell us they are for book club kits.

Friends of the Library will hold their monthly book sale on Saturday, May 1, from 10-1, in the garage. They continue to accept donations of gently used books to stock their shelves.

You can reach the library at 605-668-5275 or e-mail me at [kjacobs@sdln.net](mailto:kjacobs@sdln.net). View us online at <http://www.yanktonsd.org/yankton/library/index.php>.

## LIFE DIGEST

### YA Concert Association Kicks Off 64th Season

Yankton Area Concert Association is celebrating its 64th season. Purchase your membership before April 29 and receive two bonus concerts: seven for the price of five.

You can enjoy the last two concerts of this season as a bonus with your membership of the up coming season: the Rastrelli Cello Quartet performs at 7:30 p.m. Thursday April 29, and Nearly Neil performs at 7:30 p.m. Sunday, May 2. Both will be held in Marian Auditorium/Mount Marty College.

For more information, call 605 665 7662 or 605 463 2206.

### Dining For Disaster Takes Place Next Week

"Dining for Disaster" is a fundraising event for the Yankton County American Red Cross. Restaurants in the area have agreed to donate a portion of their sales for a day to the Yankton Red Cross for disaster relief. The event coincides with Severe Weather Awareness Week, April 26-30.

Participating restaurants include: 81 Seafood Chophouse, Burger King, Casey's, Godfather's Pizza, Hy-Vee Kitchen, McDonald's, Mexico Viejo, Minerva's Grill & Bar, Murdo's, Pizza Ranch, Starbuck's and Waterfront Gourmet Grill

The Yankton County American Red Cross Facebook page will carry an updated listing of participating restaurants.

### Astronomy Day Features Minnesota Professor

VERMILLION — The University of South Dakota Department of Physics is sponsoring an Astronomy Day lecture by Vuk Mandic, entitled "Astronomy with Gravitational-Wave Detectors" at 7 p.m. Monday, April 26, in Farber Hall.

Mandic, Ph.D., is an assistant professor in the School of Physics and Astronomy at the University of Minnesota. A member of several scientific organizations, Mandic is co-chair of the Stochastic Working Group of the LIGO Scientific Collaboration (LSC); a member of the LSC-VIRGO Data Analysis Council; a past member of the LSC Data Analysis Committee; and co-chair of the Hardware Injections Subgroup of the LIGO Detector Characterization Group. His areas of research include gravitational wave physics, observational cosmology and early universe physics.

The lecture, which is free and open to the public, will review the current status of the Laser Interferometer Gravitational-wave Observatory (LIGO) and some of the most recent results obtained using LIGO data. Mandic will also discuss plans and expectations for the future generations of gravitational-wave detectors, particularly when it comes to assessing Einstein's theory of general relativity, accelerating mass systems produce small ripples in the fabric of space-time.

For more information about physics at USD, visit the department's Web site [www.usd.edu/physics](http://www.usd.edu/physics).

### Yankton Summer Activities Available Online

The Yankton Department of Parks and Recreation Summer Activities Brochure is now available on the [www.cityofyankton.org](http://www.cityofyankton.org) Web site and may also be picked up at the Summit Activities Center.

You may register online for activities directly from the City of Yankton's Web site. You can view, register, and submit payment for a variety of summer programs and activities. It is quick and easy, and you will receive immediate registration confirmation via e-mail.

Online registration begins at 11 a.m. April 27 and will close down at 11 a.m. May 4. Registration online will re-open at 11 a.m. May 5. All online registrations must be paid with a major credit or debit card.

Walk-in registration at the Summit Activities Center begins Tuesday, May 4, from 5:15-8 p.m.

For further information, call 668-5234 or stop by the Summit Activities Center at 1801 Summit Street, Yankton, SD 57078.

### Habitat Improvement Funding Available

HURON — The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is offering a special initiative through the Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP) in six south-central South Dakota counties. Producers in the eligible counties of Yankton, Bon Homme, Charles Mix, Brule, Gregory, and Lyman must have applications submitted by Wednesday, April 28.

The Grassland Enhancement and Restoration (GEAR) initiative allows special funding through the WHIP, to control invasive species like cedar, in grazing land situations. NRCS Resource Conservationist Denise Gauer, Huron, said, "Conservation practices eligible for cost-share are brush management, pest management, fence, and access control. Cost-share is available for mechanical control of cedar, and access control, on the treated area." She explains, "In some situations, there may be additional cost-share for re-seeding areas to a native mix of grasses and forbs."

Control of cedar to restore and enhance grassland directly affects the ability of land to provide wildlife habitat and grazing performance.

Gauer said, "This improvement will benefit grassland nesting birds such as ducks, pheasants, grouse, and songbirds, as well as, pollinators and livestock."

Partners including Pheasants Forever and other state and federal agencies are in support of this special project. Successful applicants must comply with a grazing management plan, as required.

For more information and program details, contact the NRCS office in your local USDA Service Center.

### Spotter Training Course To Be Held In Yankton

The National Weather Service and the Yankton Office of Emergency Management are teaming up to present a Severe Weather Spotter Training Course in Yankton at 7 p.m. Wednesday, April 28, at Marian Auditorium on the campus of Mount Marty College.

The course is taught by Todd Heikamp, the Warning Coordination Meteorologist with the Sioux Falls National Weather Service office, and includes information on how to recognize conditions that lead to severe summer weather and understanding the development and life cycle of severe storms. The class also includes tips for safe storm observation.

The class is open to the public and is one of only three such classes scheduled in South Dakota this year.

Similar classes are held each year in Yankton county coinciding with South Dakota Severe Weather Awareness Week, which runs April 26-30.



Mr. & Mrs. Walter Green  
60th Anniversary

Walter "Bud" and Betty Green of Fremont, NE, will celebrate their 60th wedding anniversary Friday, April 30, 2010. Their children, Bev (Jim) Machacek of Polson, MT; Bill (Sharon) Green of Valley, NE; Bob (Judy) Green of Scotland, SD; and Dan (Shella) Green of Savage, MN, request a card shower in their parents' honor. Greetings may be sent to: 665 Heatherwood, Fremont, NE 68025. The couple has 10 grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren.

[www.smilesforsiouland.com](http://www.smilesforsiouland.com)

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**Mount Marty College presents the Spring Band Concert**

**Sunday April 25, 2010 7:30 p.m. Marian Auditorium**

Directed by Dean Retford

The public is invited free of charge

**MOUNT MARTY COLLEGE**  
1105 W. 8th Street, Yankton