

Does Tucking Engine In At Night Help?

BY TOM AND RAY MAGLIOZZI

Dear Tom and Ray:
I need your help! My significant other has been placing a blanket over her engine for years now. During spells of extreme Minnesota winter weather, she'll go out and throw the blanket over the engine and close the hood. She's done this on a variety of vehicles, and the only constants are that the engine has to be pre-warmed, and there has to be a threat of bad weather the next morning. Is this actually doing anything to help the car? — Tony

RAY: Well, it works for horses, Tony.

TOM: Right. The difference is that horses create heat, and the blanket helps retain the heat they create. Once an engine stops running, it's no longer creating any heat. It's only losing heat.

RAY: So, any insulation — a blanket included — can help slow the loss of heat. But can it prevent an engine from losing all of its heat for, say eight or 10 hours, overnight? Seems unlikely.



CLICK & CLACK

TOM: An engine takes several hours to get completely cold. But the blanket covers only the top of the engine. Remember, the cold air has full access to the engine from underneath, too. So I suppose if you really wanted to try to retain some engine heat, you could surround

the engine on all sides with insulation.

RAY: We call that "a garage," Tony.
TOM: A better approach is to install a block heater. Or a block heater AND a blanket. A block heater is a small heating element that's inserted into one of your radiator hoses. It gets plugged into an electrical outlet at night — or into a timer — and keeps your car's coolant from dropping below a certain temperature. That, in turn, keeps the oil from "going molasses on you."

RAY: A block heater not only makes the engine easier to start on very cold mornings, but since your cabin heat comes from the coolant, it warms your tootsies faster, too.
TOM: And it saves your significant other from making those late-night trips out to the driveway in her nightgown to tuck in the car for the night. Make it her next birthday present, Tony.

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.

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The Anticipatory Rut

BY TOBIN BARNES



Barnes

We as humans are always waiting for something. When it finally comes, our reaction is usually, "Huh...no big deal after all," so then we start waiting for something else. It's an anticipatory rut that continues throughout life, but (alas), we never smarten up.

Take me, for instance. Right now, I'm waiting for my dog to get a cone off its head. She was neutered about a week ago, and the vet put this plastic cone around her head so she wouldn't mess with her incision. And it works great, as far as that's concerned. But it's a real pain, for us and the dog.

You'd think as smart as dogs can sometimes be that they'd adjust to this little inconvenience—as in, "Let's see, this cone extends a little ways on either side of my head. I just have to make sure I've got some clearance from walls and doors and furniture when I go anywhere. Whole thing's really pretty simple, now that I think about it. Maybe someday they'll finally take this danged thing off me."

Nope, nothing like that. Evidently happens in a dog's mind. No spatial compensation is ever made for that plastic cone. The walls continue to be scraped up, the furniture takes a heck of a beating, and the door jams are repeatedly assaulted with direct cone hits. And this will continue until that danged thing comes off.

I know. This continued to happen the numerous times our other dog had to wear a cone just like it's happening now. So, again, I'm waiting for the blessed day when the cone comes off, even though I suspect it'll seem like a relatively small blessing that will quickly be forgotten in anticipation of another blessed event.

Like the end of winter. Boy, can't wait for that one, either. The local weather guy says we're on track to have the seventh coldest winter in recorded history in this region—yeah, seventh coldest, for crying out loud.

But what a booby prize that is. You're not getting first, you're not even getting second, but you're still suffering through the seventh coldest, which is probably mere hundredths of a degree different from the coldest.

Yeah, so after that realization, what do you have left but to go back to thinking about getting that dog cone out of your life? And then what? Well, looking

forward to getting done with a long, cold winter that makes you think that having a coneless dog would be a transformative experience.

I agree. This is starting to sound like a disturbed

mind at work.

Happily, it's times like these that I realize it's all okay. Hey, I'm immune to serious meltdown. Why? Because I'm a dull guy and all this is pretty much par for the course. This kind of thinking is right smack dab in the living room of where I'm meant to be.

If I need any more convincing, I just make a quick trip on the Internet to Dullmen.com, and I'm in my comfort zone again. There, I'm reassured that these thoughts are normal. That is, for me.

I've talked about Dullmen.com before. I've always thought of that discussion as a service, really. I've thought a reminder of what dullness is all about would help settle you the way it settles me.

Well, I think it's time to go back for another therapy session or two.

First thing we notice at Dullmen.com are some comforting slogans to let you know that your kind of guy—yeah, you—is welcome here. Slogans like, "It's OK to be dull" and "We're giving a good name to a four-letter word."

And if you need any more reassurance, read on: "We don't try to keep up with the Joneses (who are the Joneses, anyway?)" "Seeking glitz and glam? Why bother?" and "Think inside the box — it's safer there."

Feeling better already? I knew you would. Only trouble is our time is up for this therapy session. Happens all the time, doesn't it? Start making headway and the session ends.

Well, I'll meet you back here next time during our regular appointment, and we'll delve further into your inner dull man. Until then, remember, you were "Born to be mild."

Tobin's website:
<http://tobin.barnes.blogspot.com>

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

UNO FALL 2009 DEAN'S LIST

OMAHA — More than 2,410 students were named to the Dean's List at the University of Nebraska at Omaha (UNO) for the Fall 2009 semester.

To qualify for the Dean's List, students must earn a grade point average (G.P.A.) of 3.5 or better for courses taken at UNO during the semester, provided 12 or more semester hours were completed.

Area students honored include: Troy Becker, Center, Neb.; Alissa Koester, Concord, Neb.; Brian Bloomquist, Kelsey Custer and Molly Vanheek, Crofton, Neb.; Jocelyn Hegge, Tyler Hegge, Sara Hochstein and Ross McGregor, Hartington, Neb.; Whitley Frank, Verdigris, Neb.; Chelsey Sorchard, Christopher Tow and Katherine Weis, Elk Point; Morgan Gass, Yankton.

UNO CHANCELLOR'S LIST

OMAHA — More than 605 students were named to both the Chancellor's List and the Dean's List at the University of Nebraska at Omaha (UNO) for the Fall 2009 semester.

To qualify for the Chancellor's List, students must earn a grade point average (G.P.A.) of 4.0 for courses taken at UNO during the semester, provided 12 or more semester hours were completed. To qualify for the Dean's List, students must earn a G.P.A. of 3.5 or better for courses taken at UNO during the semester.

Area students honored include: Randolph, Neb.: Jason Schmit, Wausa, Neb.: Abigail Banks and Emily Banks, Yankton; Sophie Stevens.

USD'S COYOTE COMMITMENT AWARD WINNERS ANNOUNCED

VERMILLION — Area high school graduates enrolling in The University of South Dakota in the fall of 2010 are among the recipients of The University's prestigious Coyote Commitment awards.

Presented annually to academically talented high school graduates, the Coyote Commitment provides renewable, scholarship assistance for incoming students for up to four years of enrollment at USD.

USD awarded Coyote Commitments to the following area freshmen for fall 2010:

Centerville - Kelsey Brue of Centerville High School; Dakota Dunes - Ian Berens of Bishop Heelan High School (Sioux City, Iowa); Delmont - Alena Laber of Parkston High School; Scotland - Michael Kronaizi of Scotland High School; Tabor - Abby Einrem and Sara Holec of Bon Homme High School; Vermillion - Emma Getzin and Michael Walker of Vermillion High School; Yankton - Mallory Schulte, Eric Pratt, Hannah Downing, Rachel Termansen, Matthew Black and Katie Starzi of Yankton Senior High School.

UNMC PHARMACY DEAN'S LIST

To qualify for the dean's list, students

must place in the top 20 percent of their class and maintain a grade point average of 3.5 or above. The students and their hometowns are listed below. Maiden names are included in parenthesis.

Bloomfield — Jeremiah Bertschinger, Creighton — Julie (Sorensen) Stukenholtz

TYNDALL NATIVE INVITED TO NEBRASKA BANDMASTERS

NORFOLK, Neb. — For the third consecutive year, Northeast Community College student Sean Bauder has been invited to participate in the Nebraska State Bandmasters Intercollegiate Band. Bauder is a member of the Northeast Community College Concert Band and the Northeast Jazz Machine directed by Dr. Randall Neuhaith. "Sean is an extremely talented musician," said Dr. Neuhaith. "It is a great honor to be invited to join the Intercollegiate Band once, yet alone three times as Sean has been invited."

DWP 2010 SUMMER INVITATIONAL INSTITUTE

VERMILLION — The Dakota Writing Project (DWP) at The University of South Dakota invites teachers for an institute of learning at the 2010 DWP Summer Invitational Institute (SI). Innovative and dedicated teachers of any discipline or grade level can apply for the program, which is scheduled Mondays through Thursdays, June 7-July 1 at The U.

Participants accepted for the summer institute are required to attend a pre-institute on Saturday, May 1 and a fall reunion on Saturday, Sept. 18. Teachers with access to the Dakota Digital Network (DDN) can attend the pre-institute and fall reunion through DDN.

The application deadline is Friday, March 12. Late applications will be considered, depending on space available. For more information, including a complete listing of necessary application materials, please contact the Dakota Writing Project at dwp@usd.edu or visit <http://orgs.usd.edu/dwp>.

BCU ANNOUNCES "SWIMMING WITH THE SHARKS" FINALISTS

SIoux CITY, Iowa — Briar Cliff University is pleased to announce finalists who will compete in the "Swimming with the Sharks" business idea competition at 7 p.m., Tuesday, March 9, in the Stark Student Center on BCU's campus.

The area finalists are from Morningside College, Sioux City, Jeremiah Hughes and Jessyka Coulter with their "E-Group" business idea and faculty sponsor Dr. Pam Mickelson; from Wayne State College, Wayne, Neb., Stacey Schaller with her "ClkRew" business idea and faculty advisor Dr. Chuck Parker; from The University of South Dakota, Vermillion, Melissa Eickman with her business idea "Inside Out Magazine" and faculty sponsor Dr. Lisa Bryan; from Briar

Cliff University, Matt Collins, Jordan Hohenstein, Richard Miller II, Jon Smith and Elizabeth Walters with their business idea "CliffShop" and faculty advisor Marilyn Eastman and staff advisor Matt Gaul.

Read the entire announcement on Facebook or at http://www.briar-cliff.edu/alumni_friends/press_release/2010/030510.asp.

S.D. SCHOOLS RECEIVE EPSCOR GRANT FUNDS

PIERRE — Eight South Dakota schools will receive a total of \$200,000 to enhance, expand and develop new initiatives in secondary career cluster programs.

The emphasis of the projects will be on four clusters: Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM); Information Technology; Health Science; and Agriculture Science.

Projects range from dual credit opportunities in information technology to cutting-edge courses in pre-engineering and biosciences. EPSCoR funds were awarded to the following area school system: Platte/Geddes High School.

CDL COURSE AT RTEC

If you're looking for a new career opportunity, you might want to take advantage of the CDL Truck Driving Course that Mitchell Technical Institute (MTI) plans to offer at RTEC starting March 17.

This course, which can help you obtain your Class A Commercial Drivers License (CDL) will be offered at the Regional Technical Education Center (RTEC), 1200 W. 21st St., in Yankton.

The 34-hour training course includes 20 hours of CDL Prep classroom instruction at RTEC which will run from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Wednesday, Mar. 17 and Thursday, Mar. 18 and from 8 a.m. to Noon on Friday, Mar. 19. Students will then have an opportunity to take the exam Friday afternoon.

Financial assistance may be available to those who qualify. Contact RTEC at (605) 668-5700 for more details or to register. Call today — class size is limited.

SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE FOR YOUTH CANCER SURVIVORS

SIoux FALLS — If you are a young cancer survivor planning to attend a university, college, technical or vocational school in fall of 2010, the American Cancer Society invites you to apply for its Youth Scholarship Program. But hurry —

TAX-FREE INCOME FOR YOUR RETIREMENT

Tax-free income is the best gift you can give yourself at retirement. Converting to a Roth IRA from a traditional IRA allows for tax-free accumulation as well as tax-free withdrawals in retirement — which means you don't have to worry as much about what income tax rates will be in the future.

There are tax considerations and other factors that determine whether converting to a Roth IRA is right for you.

Call today to schedule an appointment to learn more. We'll discuss your retirement goals to help determine if a Roth IRA makes sense for you.

Edward Jones, its employees and financial advisors do not provide tax or legal advice. Please contact a qualified tax or legal professional regarding your particular situation.

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MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING

A Heartfelt Thank You

Words cannot begin to express the Thanks we want to send out to everyone that worked, donated and contributed to the benefit held for us.

A special thank you Pam Ganschow for all her hard work and organization skills. Thank you to family, friends and co-workers for sharing time and working so hard to put the benefit together.

The support we have received from the area communities has been overwhelming: It is hard to list the individual names as we might miss someone, but we want to let everyone know how grateful we are for the donations for auction items and contributions made to the benefit.

We have been blessed by the community and are truly proud to be a part of it. It is hard to be on the receiving end of such kindness. May God bless you all. Again, a heartfelt thank you.

Terry & Julie Hoxeng

Roses... Just Because!

A project to benefit:

Avera Sacred Heart Hospice Program

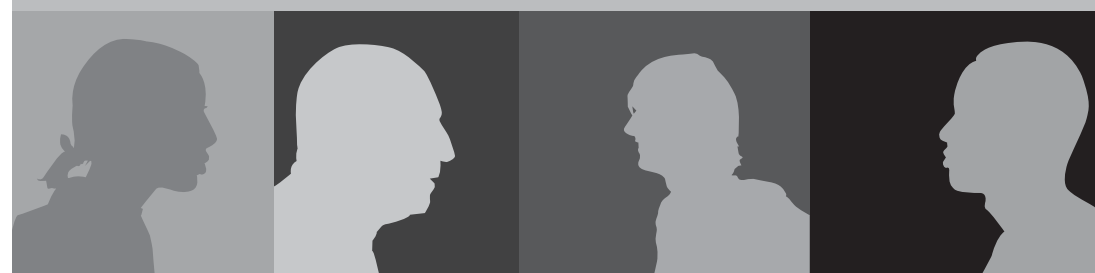
- Make a gift of roses to someone special in your life for no reason...Just Because!
- Or Purchase a dozen roses to donate to a: Hospice Patient - Cancer Patient - Care Center Resident
- One dozen long-stemmed roses for only \$20 to be picked up on April 6th at the Benedictine Center - 1000 W. 4th St.
- Variety of colors available - first come/first choice

Roses can be ordered at the following places in Yankton: before Thursday, March 11th, 2010

Benedictine Health Foundation Office, 668-8310
Avera Sacred Heart Hospice Department, 668-8327
OR

Order online at www.averasacredheart.com and click on "Roses...Just Because"

When gambling becomes more than a game, no one wins.



Warning signs: Preoccupation with gambling. Gambling to win back what you've lost. Lying to cover up gambling. If you or someone you know may have a problem, you're not alone. Get help. Treatment is confidential. And it works.

Call 24/7 for advice and treatment info.

1-800-522-4700



PROBLEM GAMBLING
Awareness Week