

# OPINION



## Nothing quite like a good old snow day

Is there anything quite like a good old fashioned snow day? As many school districts across the state swap snow days for e-learning days, the excitement of a snow day or two hour late start is being lost for our new generation of youth. Last week was a perfect example as school was called off the night before for a number of school districts in our area, who opted to have students learn in front of a computer all day instead of playing in the snow, or at the very least get a little extra sleep due to a shortened school day.

Twenty plus years ago school was not called off or delayed quite as frequently as it is today—or at least that was the case with my new high school in Wheaton, Minn. From an outsiders perspective the philosophy was to have school, if at all possible, in order to not have to make up days at the end of the school year. A noble, but absolute idiotic philosophy looking back all these years.

Since we needed to make it to lunch in order for the full day to count, and the buses only traveled on plowed roads, us fortunate souls that lived in town were left with some interesting situations trying to get home in the middle of a



**Henning Happenings**  
Chad Koenen

blizzard. One such incident came during the winter of 1997-98 when a fast moving snow storm took hold of the greater Wheaton area. Let me also start the story by saying I did not bring a hat, gloves or boots to school and the snow drifts in the parking lot were knee high. Also, I had moved to town just a few months prior to this snow storm.

Typically, when school was called off early due to the weather, a person from the school office would come over the loud speaker and tell us we would be going home after lunch and to be careful on the drive home. As the snow continued to fall, it appeared at least to the untrained eye, our school administration picked a fight with mother nature and lost terribly.

Power was going off throughout the town and I will never forget the panic in the eyes of our prin-

cipals eyes as he worried out loud about what would happen if electricity went out and the school had to rely on a back up generator for an extended period of time. Not only were we not going to go home early, but there was a fear many students could have to be at the school until long after the final bell rang for the day.

The consolation, as we later learned, was those of us who lived in town could go home due to the inclement weather, provided we have our parents permission and a ride. At the time, we lived from about Frazee High School to All in All, but even that was too far away to walk home.

Even though I moved to the community just a few months earlier, I managed to find a classmate affectionately known as "Buddha" who I was able to con into giving me a ride home. When asked by my parents who was giving me a ride home, apparently a nickname of Buddha raised a few red flags, I had to put the phone down and ask him what his actual name was (I think it took me almost a year to finally remember his name).

As we prepared to leave the school the warning we got from our principal was

comical, yet told the real story of the weather, if we got stuck in the parking lot we had to come back to school. However, if we made it to the main road we could go home.

In today's world I have no doubt that someone would have taken out their cell phone and recorded these four idiots pushing a vehicle through snow banks going over the front of their vehicle without so much as a hat or gloves on.

We ended up making it out of the parking lot without getting stuck, and ironically of course, I went over to Buddha's house the rest of the day and walked twice as far home in the middle of the snow storm later that night.

Today, a lot of the "adventure" of getting home from school from inclement weather has been taken away by area superintendents who use common sense in calling off school, instead of being stubborn about not wanting to add a few days of school at the end of the year. Unless of course, someone wants to go viral on the Internet by pushing an old car across a parking lot full of snow drifts and celebrating like they just won a national championship when they hit the open road.

## Burma Shave signs covered local farms

A man, a miss,  
A car a curve.  
He kissed the miss,  
And missed the curve.  
I'm sure that Burma Shave actually saved some lives. People laughed and were more careful! It was a REAL "service" to America, even though it was an advertisement and it was one of the RARE "really useful" ones!



**The Prairie Spy**  
Alan "Lindy" Linda

For those who never saw any of the Burma Shave signs, here is a quick lesson in our history of the 1930's and '40's.

Before there were interstates, when everyone drove the old 2 lane roads, Burma Shave signs would be posted all over the countryside in farmers' fields. They were small red signs with white letters. Five signs, about 100 feet apart, each containing 1 line of a 4 line couplet... and the obligatory 5th sign advertising Burma Shave, a popular shaving cream.

Don't stick your elbow out so far  
it may go home in another car.  
Burma Shave

Trains don't wander all over the map 'cause nobody sits in the engineer's lap.  
Burma Shave

She kissed the hairbrush by mistake she thought it was her husband jake.  
Burma shave

Don't lose your head to gain a minute you need your head your brains are in it.  
Burma shave

Drove too long driver snoozing what happened next is not amusing.  
Burma shave

Brother speeder let's rehearse all together good morning, nurse.  
Burma shave

Cautious rider to her reckless dear let's have less bull and a little more steer.  
Burma shave

Speed was high weather was not tires were thin x marks the spot.  
Burma shave

The midnight ride of paul for beer led to a warmer hemisphere. Burma shave

Around the curve lickety-split beautiful car wasn't it? Burma shave

No matter the price no matter how new the best safety device in the car is you.  
Burma shave

A guy who drives a car wide open is not thinkin' he's just hopin'.  
Burma shave

At intersections look each way a harp sounds nice but it's hard to play.  
Burma shave

Both hands on the wheel eyes on the road that's the skillful driver's code.  
Burma shave

The one who drives when he's been drinking depends on you to do his thinking.  
Burma shave

Car in ditch driver in tree the moon was full and so was he.  
Burma shave

Passing school zone take it slow let our little shavers grow.  
Burma shave

Do these bring back any old memories? If not, you're too young.

If they do, then you're old as dirt. Like me!  
I loved reading them.

Shaving brushes you'll soon see 'um way out east in some museum

He played a sax had no b.o. but his whiskers scratched so she let him go

He had the ring he had the flat but she felt his chin and that was that

When cutting whiskers: You don't need to leave one half of them for seed

Don't take a curve at sixty per we'd hate to lose a customer

Past schoolhouses: Take it slow let those little shavers grow

From annual contests: Her chariot raced at 80 per they hauled away what had ben hur

He lit a match to check gas tank that's why they call him skinless frank

## Is a scanner in a motor vehicle legal?

Question: I have a buddy who drives around with a scanner in his vehicle. He says because he has a ham radio license it's legal, is that true?

Answer: Your friend is correct. Peace officers, the State Patrol, and people with an amateur radio license issued by the Federal Communications Commission are allowed to have a scanner in their vehicle. Emergency response personnel are also allowed to use scanners if they're em-



**Ask a Trooper**  
Sgt. Jesse Grabow

ployed or authorized by the federal government, the state, or a political subdivision to provide fire sup-

pression, police protection, emergency medical services, or emergency activities relating to health and safety and in compliance with the requirements of the state statute.

People not authorized to use a scanner could be found guilty of a misdemeanor. Second and subsequent offenses are gross misdemeanors.

People using such devices while committing or attempting to commit a felony could be convicted of a

felony.

A portion of state statutes were used with permission from the Office of the Revisor of Statutes. If you have any questions concerning traffic related laws or issues in Minnesota, send your questions to Trp. Jesse Grabow - Minnesota State Patrol at 1000 Highway 10 West, Detroit Lakes, MN 56501-2205. (You can follow him on Twitter @MSPPPIO\_NW or reach him at, jesse.grabow@state.mn.us)

## Have your opinion heard

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Deadlines for all Letter's to the Editor is Friday at 12 p.m. Letter's can be emailed to news@henningadvocate.com or dropped off at the Citizen's Advocate office at 412 Douglas Ave.

