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Chat Room

Joni Hubred

Road trip helps car bonding process

If you really want to bond with your new car, take it on vacation.

Although I've only owned it for a few weeks, my 2000 Buick Century and I have finally achieved a level of understanding. The Princess has already taken me more than 2,000 miles without so much as a hiccup, and next week, I'm taking her for her first oil change as a reward.

The road to this new relationship, however, wasn't an easy one.

After more than a year of arguing with myself, hesitating, looking, thinking and careful consideration (I do hate to rush into anything), I finally gave in to the idea of making a car payment again.

The Princess has power everything, anti-lock brakes, a passenger side airbag and really swell upholstery, which I promptly sliced through while moving.

That's a whole other story. Just two days after sealing the deal, I headed out on I-94 toward Minnesota and a visit with my family. The last long-distance trip I took in my '91 Mercury began the same way, but at a much lower speed.

It's amazing how much more powerful a car engine can be when it isn't leaking oil and transmission fluid.

The ride was smooth, the sound system rocked, the air conditioning worked — it was like being in another world. Not worrying about whether a tire would go flat or a tie rod would suddenly snap gave me more time to think about Important Stuff.

While I was ruminating, I forgot to make my usual detour around Chicago and landed smack dab in the middle of a monstrous traffic jam caused by reconstruction on I-90/I-94 downtown. They may charge you to drive on roads in Illinois, but that doesn't make the roads any better, at least not that I could tell.

Of course, I was only traveling 5 mph and I spent most of my time letting other drivers into my lane. I'm not terribly picky about the Princess' paint job, but the crumpled fender I could do without.

It took us almost an hour to get moving, headed into Wisconsin and what I thought would be less traffic.

Except that it was a Sunday afternoon and a beautiful, sunny Sunday afternoon at that.

Everyone in Wisconsin had decided to go to the lake that weekend and at 3, they were all headed home, towing boats and outboard motors and campers and travel trailers.

I was on vacation, I was thinking about Important Stuff. What did I care, right?

About the time I settled into cruising altitude, a small silver sports car zipped up right onto my rear bumper. I vowed then and there to get a bumper sticker that says, "If you can read this, BACK OFF JACK."

The sports car rode within inches of a rear end collision for about the next 40 miles. In his defense, he had nowhere else to go. We were boxed in on both sides. The moment a sliver of space appeared in the right hand lane, he nosed in, almost clipping me as he passed.

PLEASE SEE HUMBER, C6



HALL BRESLER | OBSERVER

Graphologist Randy Hall analyzes Observer Intern Christine Broda's handwriting.

'Emotional slant'

HHS grad reads plenty into a writing sample

BY JONI HUBRED
STAFF WRITER

Randy Hall hunched a little over a sample of handwriting, making small hash marks and underlining letters.

"You go all the way to the baseline," he said, pointing to a series of letters his client had written. "You're very thorough."

The 1989 Harrison High School graduate has analyzed thousands of handwriting samples and plans to eventually make a career of graphology. In addition to being highly entertaining, the practice can be used in the business world, he said.

Employers can gain some insight as to what to expect out of a certain employee, what motivates someone. For instance, if you know someone is sensitive to criticism, you'll also know that a sincere compliment will go a long way toward motivating that person.

"That's important. You want to treat people as well as you can," he said.

It's also possible for him to look through handwriting samples of a group of applicants and learn which one might be best suited for the job.

Hall points out he has no psychic abilities or clairvoyant power. He said he just says what he sees on the paper.

In reading the sample of college student Christine Broda, who worked this summer as an intern with Observer newspapers, Hall said, "You're inquisitive. You're in the right profession."

Calling her a story-teller, he said Broda has an active imagination and provides more detail when she talks about what she sees than most people.

"She sees the picture as grand," he said. "She'll just hold you spellbound."

Broda said Hall's analysis was spot on.

"I don't think there's anything you've said that wasn't me," she said.

The first thing Hall looks at is the handwriting's emotional slant.

A right-hand slant indicates the person is more

emotional; a left bent is an indication that the head rules the heart.

"That influences everything," Hall said.

The reverse is also true. A few years ago, Hall crossed his "t's" very low, an indication of low self-esteem. He started deliberately crossing them higher and now feels the problem has resolved itself.

"I'm not as scared of rejection," he said.

Hall pointed out he has no psychic abilities or clairvoyant power. He said he just says what he sees on the paper.

"I'm always surprised," he said. "Everyone's handwriting is really different. It's like a snowflake. No two would ever match up."

Hall was trained at the Handwriting University in Dallas, Texas. He said most graphologists frown upon those who analyze handwriting for entertainment, but he feels that's a great way to introduce people to the concept.

"If people see this and see it's true, I've exposed them to it," he said. "A lot of people have never heard of it. It think it's an amazing tool to better understand yourself and other people."

For more information about Hall's services, go to www.thrivenotsurvive.com

Jains to present symbols in weekend ceremony

BY HEATHER NEEDHAM
STAFF WRITER

Twenty Indian-crafted marble idols symbolizing different gods will be officially presented in a ceremony at the Jain Society of Greater Detroit temple this weekend.

At 9:30 a.m. Sunday, Aug. 18, a parade featuring Jain religious leaders and local elected officials will precede the ceremony. The parade route begins at Mercy High School and will extend south on Middlebelt to the temple, located just east of Middlebelt on 12 Mile.

The 25,307-square-foot temple, located at 29278 12 Mile, opened in 1998 and took three years to build.

Niranjan Shah, event coordinator and Farmington Hills resident, said that he expects 1,500 Jains from around the world to attend the ceremony and parade.

The marble idols, which were placed into storage after being shipped from India, play an important role in the Jain religion.

"Those statues are our gods," Niranjan Shah said, adding that each god is worshipped by a different Jain sect.

Among the most prominent of Jain beliefs is reverence for all life. This reverence extends also to life forms considered vermin by many — such as insects and rodents.

"We believe that every living thing has the same kind of life inside," Niranjan Shah said. When he discovered a mouse in his abode last year, he bought a live trap, captured the mouse and released it into a wooded area.

In keeping with this belief, most

Jains are strict vegetarians.

Non-violence is another Jain tenet, and applies not only to actions, but to thoughts.

"You don't think about somebody (in a bad way)," said Arvind Shah of Troy, who also is coordinating the festival.

The festival is just one of many ways the Jains get involved with the community. The temple also has sponsored blanket collection drives, bone marrow and blood drives and has allowed reli-

gion students to visit the temple for study. The temple also participated in fund-raising for victims of September 11, 2001. Shah said.

India Earthquake Relief of Michigan raised \$750,000 in 2000 for victims of an Indian earthquake.

"We are part of the community and we support the community," Niranjan Shah said.

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Religion has respect for all life forms

The Jain religion is one of the original Asian Indian religions and has nearly 7 million followers world wide. The word "Jain" comes from the Sanskrit word "ji" and means "to conquer."

A majority of the world's Jains live in Gujarat and Bombay, in the western portion of India. In metro Detroit, there are 450 families connected with the Jain Society of Greater Detroit and its Farmington Hills temple.

There are 100,000 Jains in the United States and Canada.

Before entering a Jain temple, visitors must remove their shoes. Some Jain principles are:

- All life forms must be revered, including insects. Jains tend to be strict vegetarians.

- All living beings have a soul.

- No one created the universe, no one controls it and no one will destroy it.

- Any soul can be liberated from the cycle of birth and death and achieve Moksha, which means perpetual happiness and a state of complete knowledge.

- Five major vows include non-violence of thought and action, truth, non-stealing, celibacy and non-attachment.

Source: The Jain Society of Greater Detroit.