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3 hippy dudes and a green bus= problems<-THE ORIGINAL


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Author	Message
thenexttownshend Samba Contributor  Joined: 27 Nov 2003 Posts: 355 Location: Rhode Island	<p>Posted: Sat Sep 11, 2004 5:31 pm Post subject:</p> <p>Eh... id let them do what they want. You tried, leave them be while your still on a good note with everyone.</p> <p>Steve</p> <p>-1973 Bus Type II</p> <p> </p>
Bottomend Grease Joined: 20 Sep 2003 Posts: 999 Location: Smell Aye! via Nude Hamster!	<p>Posted: Sat Sep 11, 2004 5:35 pm Post subject:</p> <p>We have the dead battery in the bus with us so we stop of the Local AutoBone to put it on quick charge. We also ask the sales guy to come out and check the Alternator.</p> <p>The first words out of his mouth we're ' wow this one is in rough shape" .Residue says ' it's our baby. It's fine! It's just doesn't run " no kidding , thats exactly what he said. (the sales guys name was Mondo.... Cosmo, Moses and Mondo. Anybody wanna analyze this for me?)</p> <p>The Alt came up at 4 amps. It should be, oh I dont know... 50 or something, right?</p> <p>Mondo and I bonded pretty quickly while the machine was analyzing the system. I told him the story and the next words out of Mondos mouth we're "these guys are F**ked". The Hippys were all realaxing in the shade when Mondo said that to me but I asked him to tell them what he thought . He walked right up to them and said the same thing. I was actually happy that for at least this onetime, I didn't have to be the only person wiht BAD news. But Leader, being charged to lead, started to lead.... " is there anybody else who might have an alternator?"</p> <p>I got on the phone and started to call all my shop contacts. It was late and people are getting ready to go home. But I kept right on calling. I swear, this was some kind of compulsion from God or something. (Anybody else had somethng like this ever happen to them. Not nessesarily the mechanical stuff but the spirtual side of all this?)</p> <p>So now we're waiting for 30 minutes while the battery charges. We get back to the green machine and push it into the Romanian Church parking lot. Leader goes forth to clear it with the Ministers wife. The word comes back that we have exactly 20 minutes to do the work. They close the gate at 7 pm. They wern't friendly.</p> <p>I load the battery back in to the bus and start on the third and final oil change. I had forgotten to make the 'super gasket' on the last change, so now was my chance. Man I hope this works!!!!!!!</p> <p>I get residue to come and help. I tell him in a very strict tone of voice that the job I'm about to give him is simple yet super important. ... he's committed to the idea and focuses... a little.</p> <p>Let me say this before i go on. Leader asks me if it is really nessecary to do the oil strainer plate fix because if it's not REALLY important then we can go to Best Buy before they close. (this guy is sooooo stubborn!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!)He now knows enough about the car to know the car will "run' without an alternator. In his mind, the moment of dire consquenses has passed.</p> <p>So, I start doing math for him at six thirty five pm Thursday September tenth in the year two thousand and four. I told him that I just checked the oil level and it was down one quart. They had driven less that 20 miles. At that</p>

rate, it's five quarts every 100 miles. It's 1500 miles from Hollywood to Peoria. Thats 75 quarts consumption. (not to mention all the dead water fowl and plant life they would be leaving in thier disaterious wake) " how much is that?" well, Leader, there are 4 quarts in a gallon so... thats 18.75 gallons of oil. (saying that finally made sense to him. In his mind it was now time to find an "open all night Best Buy'.) Grease needed to do this job right now or nobody is going nowhere.... NEVER!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Ok, back to me and Residue and the SUPER GASKET. I gave him a simple job to do. Hold the gasket while it's drying . Dont touch it with your dirty fingers. Silicon and oil dont mix. That what they made it for, right? He understood.

I'm under the bus drainig the oil and looking at our CV boots for the first time since the bus has been in motion. There is grease flung on the shocks after only 20 miles..not a good sign. The next thing I hear is... "OH NO!!!!!!!!!" I asked Residue what happened and before I could get all the words out, i went into a dream..... I looked over and he had dropped the gasket in the dirt.... later in the evening i asked him what kind of a response I had and He said I actually curled into the fetal position and started singing my ABC's.

We have 10 minutes untill a not very friendly Romainian ministers wife will come to lock the church gate. I've done all I can do to not cause oil spillage in the parking lot. Even going so far as to hold the dripping hot oil in my cuped hands when I pull off the filter. (how hot you ask? about 10 miles in LA traffic with a badly tuned VW bus pushing three hippys and a shell of a man.)

I recover and Residue is very apogetic. He even said FOR HIM it was like watching a slow motion film. Thats what I love about this guy. He's not trying to pretend he hasn't permanantly altered his brain. Honest guy.

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Bottomend

Grease

Posted: Sat Sep 11, 2004 6:21 pm Post subject:



Joined: 20 Sep 2003
Posts: 999
Location: Smell Aye! via
Nude Hamster!

So, I fill the engine with oil and ask for a paper towel to check the level. We're out of towels. Without hesitation I request the loaf of bread they just bought and tell them to give me a slice. I used the slice of bread to wipe the dip stick. Now do you guys see what I'm up against here? (I also to them why I didn't use the heal ... it'll keep the loaf fresh longer. Waterboy thought that was cool and said now he knows why their bread always goes bad too fast.)

We we're now only concerned with looking for leaks...

At 6:55 PM pacific standard time, I announce and declared that their engine is now leak free.

From here we went to my hose to drop me off so I could spend a couple of hours preparing for my job the next day. I need to drive to the ocean, pick up some equipment and drive back. As they we driving me back to my place I remembered that I had a fan shroud at home! I had just bought it and it had an alternator still on it! Duh. If I would've thought of this earlier in the day I could've installed IN THE DAYLIGHT!! I offered it to them as an alternative to buying (more than likely) stolen property. They accepted and I figured that if I could be back home from my prep work by 9:30 -10:00pm the new alternator could be in by midnight AND... since the bus was 'running,' we could park it infront of my place and I could bring a light out so I could actually see what I'm doing. I've learned that flashlights are not all they're cracked up to be.

I got home around 9:45 and got straight to work. We took the alternator to AUTO BONE to test on their machine. THEY DIDN'T HAVE AN ADAPTER!!!!!!!!!!!!!! they tried to sell me one that the computer said would fit but it looked nothing like the stock ALT. Leader was completely convinced by now that I'm making stuff up because he cant conceive that the COMPUTER can be wrong. This discussion was just wasting time and I'd been working on the bus for 13 hours at this point today alone. We went back to my place and I said that I would put this 'new' one in and we might just get lucky. After installation, we could then drive back to AutoBone and have them test it on their other machine that works on any car, etc., it's more work for me, but as I saw it, the only option was to let these guys sit on my front door step to fend for themselves. I couldn't do it.

I dont know where I got the energy. Everytime I turned around I was getting hit with something else.

I wanted to time myself doing the work. It took 30 minutes to get the fanshroud off. By 11:30 I had it just about back together. We never made it back to AutoBone. We tried to start it. It would turn over but nothing else. i took out one of the spark plugs and i 'm getting no spark. I traced EVERY wire imaginable and couldn't find one thing out of place (cept for all the micky mouse stuff that was already there). this didn't make sense. the only thing i could think of was the Pertronix. Maybe it just decided to go nite nite at that particular moment. Heck, why not? everything else is going wrong. As I said earlier, I cant seem to find my volt meter (not that I know what I' ooking for anyway. I just make sure the little needle moves...!) So I told them that I can throw in my own pertronix and see

it thats the problem. It's like, 1:45am at this point and we're literally sitting in the street. It's a major street but I dont car. A hooker came up to us and started talking. It sounded like wale communication under the ocean to me at that point. My brain was shot I was done, finished, kaputzed. I had work in the morning and I've put in 10 hours on Sunday, 13 Monday, 15 Tuesday, 18 hours Wednesday and 17 hours Thursday. Thats around 75 hours. On top of the stuff I had to do, it adds up to your typical 100+ hour week. Oh, did I mention that we drove off with the top still in the raised position from Moses' house? See, this is when mistakes start to happen. I dont want to loose a finger or poke out my eye ect.

Last night I went over to them and they said a guy from a church up the street who is a certified car tech came and looked at it. He said he could find no pluasable reason why it would 'nt be running. He got a spark thoghugh. there was some kind of freaky battery isolater thing all spagehtti wired togahter and it was shorting somewhere, I guess. This morning I went back again and they said it will kinda kick over but not actually catch and start. I dunno.. I told them that it's beyond my scope of understanding . I'm not gonna suggest for them to start puting band aids to cure cancer, even though thats what they wanna hear. I'd probably be in the same emotional state if I was them.

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73VwBus73
Samba Contributor



Joined: 17 Feb 2004
Posts: 298
Location: Long Beach !!

Posted: Sat Sep 11, 2004 7:22 pm Post subject:

[quote](#) [report](#)

Bottomend where in LA are you? im in long beach and i can get a few people together and maybe come up to help you out

54 -oval-
73 -bus-

*wanted... heart tail lights..54 oval glass

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DurocShark
Samba Contributor



Joined: 05 Apr 2004
Posts: 2125
Location: In the thin air

Posted: Sat Sep 11, 2004 7:59 pm Post subject:

[quote](#) [edit](#)

73VwBus73 wrote:

Bottomend where in LA are you? im in long beach and i can get a few people together and maybe come up to help you out

Yeah, I've been waiting all day for a call or something. 😞

These guys have some serious tunnel vision! Heh.

Curious: Leader has a credit card... Just a Best Buy card I assume? Maybe he can make a deal with Cosmo to take him to BB and buy a TV for him or something and Cosmo fixes their bus?

I did this once when I bought a car. The down payment was a big screen TV I put on my Circuit City card. LoL!

73 High Top
71 Deluxe
84 Volvo 244GL
70 Chevrolegs

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Bottomend
Grease

Joined: 20 Sep 2003
Posts: 999
Location: Smell Aye! via Nude Hamster!

Posted: Sat Sep 11, 2004 9:08 pm Post subject:

[quote](#) [report](#)

Yea, it's a Best Buy credit card. Good idea about the TV. Cosmo is a nice guy but I get the feeling that he's kinda over VW's at this point in his life. Just wants to collect a paycheck. I wouldn't have the guts to suggest something like this. (but I'm a real wimp anyway...)

I went through the AIRS list for LA and looked for anyone who has FI bus experience. I found about 10 names. I wrote them down and brought them it to Leader.

I'll probably ake a walk over there right now and get an update. I poked my head around the corner a few hours ago but I didn't ..."engage'.

I read the post about them getting fixed here in LA and then breaking down again a few hundered miles in the

middle of nowhere. That thought is part of what keeps driving me. They are completely clueless as to what they have purchased. I.E. and 'fixer upper". Again, as was pointed out on the thread, this is the bus you tow home and let sit for 6 months while you putter around on it one thing at a time. I think when I finally told them that a couple of days ago it just went right over thier heads. Thier only reference point is modern japanese/american cars. You know, replace the radiator and a battery and you're good to go for three years.

Wadda you guys think now? Tell me your thoughts? I was quite impressed when I read that this has been posted on another couple of sites. Does that mean only a portion of the posts aer going to those other site or is everything I write being seen by others? Will I forever be know as the guy who used a slice of white bread to check the oil level? Hope so!

I told a guy I know (he owns a bunch of nice motercycles...Indians Ducati, Panheads, ect...) about the bread and he laughed pretty hard!

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79SuperVert
Samba Contributor



Joined: 31 May 2002
Posts: 2699
Location: Elizabeth, NJ

Posted: Sat Sep 11, 2004 9:19 pm Post subject:

[quote](#) [report](#)

Well IMO this is the best thread I have ever read. And you have done a superhuman job. But this has to be taking a toll on you. You don't want to jeopardize your job. If it comes to that you have to draw the line and let these guys deal with their own bad luck.

But as long as you have the energy and the motivation, keep it up. You are great!

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DurocShark
Samba Contributor



Joined: 05 Apr 2004
Posts: 2125
Location: In the thin air

Posted: Sat Sep 11, 2004 9:45 pm Post subject:

[quote](#) [edit](#)

I thought the bread was pretty ingenious... Probably the only reason people don't think of using bread is because we don't usually have a loaf of bread handy. 😊

Aside from changing your status from "Samba Contributor" to "Angel of Mercy" or some such, I think you've done an amazing job and deserve all the good that your nicely swollen karma account can buy! (Hopefully more than just hookers offering free tricks! 😊)

Again, I'm thinking they need to cut their losses, chalk it up to a life experience, and bail out. If they lived here in SoCal that would be one thing. They would have the luxury of time to learn how to work on the bus (and learn the beauty of tools!)

Don't be afraid to ask a mechanic to do a deal like this. Cosmo may have been drooling over a new receiver or TV or something and this is just the ticket for him. It's obvious he understands the lack of bread (get it? bread!) in this situation when he just greased up the wheel bearings instead of charging for new ones anyway like most mechanics. So he may be much more open to "alternative" payment methods.

I'm just afraid that no matter how perfect the bus is when they leave, something will happen and these guys will have no clue what to do about it. Even something as simple as a broken wire will baffle them.

Have you asked them what they'll do if there's nobody on the AIRS list available to help if they have a problem? Not home, nobody nearby, etc, etc... They don't have any \$\$ for mechanics or tow trucks.

It seems that their safety needs to move up a few notches in the priority list, right above buying a car stereo for a non-running vehicle. 😊

I'm still available to come out and help tomorrow if needed... Give me an excuse to bug my brother-in-law in Burbank. 😊

73 High Top
71 Deluxe
84 Volvo 244GL
70 Chevrolegs

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DanWesty
Samba Contributor

Posted: Sat Sep 11, 2004 9:59 pm Post subject:

[quote](#) [report](#)

Joined: 22 May 2004
Posts: 72
Location: Los Angeles

Call up Uhaul and see much it would cost to rent a truck and a tow trailer. If they're hell bent on getting the bus back to where they live, that seems to be the only safe way to do it. In order to maintain a bus or any old car for that matter you either need tons of cash to pay a mechanic or the patience and skill to fix it yourself. A bus will never be like a new honda where you can just drive it and not worry about anything except oil changes and other routine maintenance for 200,000 miles. They should keep that fact in mind to see if its worth it for them to keep the car. Just my thoughts on the subject. Bottomend, if you decide to try and fix it up shoot me a pm. I've got a voltmeter if you still need one.

Dan

1977 Volkswagen Westfalia Deluxe

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Bottomend
Grease

Joined: 20 Sep 2003
Posts: 999
Location: Smell Aye! via
Nude Hamster!

Posted: Sun Sep 12, 2004 3:41 am Post subject:



Thanks for the advice. This is the same stuff I've been telling them. They just dont understand what they are involved with. I would do the same thing. They spent the money to buy this bus under dubious conditions and they got all pumped up (enough to buy plane tix!) and travel half way across the states.

Dan Westy, I'll take you up on the volt meter thing. I rememeber we we're PMing about local shops ect a few weeks ago. Sorry but I've been a little busy. I didn't mean to blow you off. I noticed in your signature that you have a 77 bus. Do you know how to check the FI stuff? I hear it's simple but I just haven't had the time to get into the books and start figuring it out.

Call me if this might be something you can do on Sunday 213-248-4891 (cell)

Shark, if you think you can add anything to the mix you are welcome as well. I'll probably try to call you tomorrow. It'll be my first day off in a while. I have to regroup.

I totally understand what you guys are saying (and probably the same as all the lerkers are thinking...) about breaking down with out tools/information ect. They are in over thier heads and dont really even realize it. Maybe hearing it from someone else will alter thier veiw.

I visited with them a little tonight and asked them how the day went and they told me that the took the bus to the beach. 2 hours over and 2 hours back. They said they spent a grand total of 10 minutes in the water because the auto tech that came over yesterday for a few minutes was supposed to comeback today but didn't show. They didn't wanna miss him. I didn't lecture them about responsibility or anything, I just chatted about the beach ect. And asked if they needed anything. I'm charging thier phone at my place for them tonight.

They told me that they called all the AIRS #'s that I gave them and not one person answered the phone. Leader said he didn't leave messages because he was on a pay phone and didn't wanna loose his quarter. I also found out that they are useing thier old battery (the one that came with the bus) to power the new car stereo. When it dies, they lug it to AutoBone (app.one mile) and get it charged. What would a desert island be without tunes, right?

The burrito place is just down the street and at \$1.19 each, it really is the bargain of the century.

I think it could be kinda cool if they hung out here for a little while. It would be sociologically interesting to see how this crazy place affects them over the long run. I rememeber taking a road trip to NYC from NH (thats where I'm from) when I was 16 with my friend. We got our butts kicked by the city BIG TIME. A person tends to grow a little bit thicker skin after an experince like that. Or they just shrivel up and blow away...

They seem to be taking all of this pretty well. It's a good lesson for all of us who are on tight schedules and have no time to just let life happen. I'm think I'm better at observing this kind of existance rather than partaking in it but, who knows, maybe someday I'll meet some of you in a greasy parking lot we can call our own. 😊

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DurocShark
Samba Contributor



Joined: 05 Apr 2004

Posted: Sun Sep 12, 2004 6:22 am Post subject:



Ok. I'll be waiting for your call...

I just checked BD and an alternator is \$79. Autozone shows one for \$100. (Supposedly same from 72 to 79 according to both sites.) They also show a regulator for \$22.

So one from Dips or VWParts.net should be around those prices (and actually be the right part, as opposed to

Posts: 2125
Location: In the thin air

Autozone.) I can borrow from my rent money and pick one up and bring it if that's really the problem...

I'm heading out to the Golden West College swap meet in a few, but I'll have my cell with me.

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71 Deluxe
84 Volvo 244GL
70 Chevrolegs

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78westy not westy78
Samba Contributor



Joined: 24 Jul 2004
Posts: 172
Location: detroitish MI

Posted: Sun Sep 12, 2004 7:03 am Post subject:

[quote](#) [report](#)

DurocShark wrote:

If they lived here in SoCal that would be one thing. They would have the luxury of time to learn how to work on the bus (and learn the beauty of tools!)

DurocShark, that's it!! The answer is so obvious we simply overlooked it! What defines hippy-dom if not moving from the midwest to California, at least for a while? Something tells me their careers in Illinois are not at risk if they take a few months off.

They could learn about the bus in small steps, and may grow to the point they would be appropriate owners. Or they may get bored and move on to the next impulse. At least it would let others assist them with the project, and release bottomend from this obsession that's in danger of getting unhealthy.

Of course they will have to support themselves, which is the acid test (no pun intended). A true hippy has just enough responsibility and resourcefulness to live independently "off the grid", and be generous to others. Being on the receiving end of a one-way stream of handouts doesn't cut it.

So this may be a turning point in their lives. Are they ready to do what it takes to lead an alternative lifestyle (and as a fully integrated part of "the machine", I'm pulling for them). Or are they simply drug-addled children who have gotten in over their heads? If it's the latter, they need to go back home, leaving the bus, and bottomend, in peace.

BTW, send that Paypal ID, I'd still like to help in the endeavor, however it turns out.

Don

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IndyVW
Samba Contributor



Joined: 14 May 2004
Posts: 222
Location: Sunny Indiana

Posted: Sun Sep 12, 2004 7:33 am Post subject:

[quote](#) [report](#)

Do these guys realize how much your helping them out? I hope so. I know I've learned something from this saga - the need for the heel of the bread loaf.

By the way, do they ever look at the posts on here?

Somebody's Heine is drownin my ice box. Somebody's cold one is giving me chills.

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DurocShark
Samba Contributor



Joined: 05 Apr 2004
Posts: 2125
Location: In the thin air

Posted: Sun Sep 12, 2004 8:21 am Post subject:

[quote](#) [edit](#)

Ok, since it looks like I'm heading out there as soon as bottomend calls and tells me where I'm going, go ahead and kick any donations to my PayPal account. durocshark @ REMOVE hotmail.com (remove the spaces too)

Make sure the subject says "Hippy Money" so I know what it's for. 😊 (I do a lot of selling on eBay and Anandtech, so I get money from all kinds of people.) I have a PayPal debit card, so can take the cash out immediately at an ATM or use it as a credit card.

If the \$\$ doesn't get used, or for whatever reason I don't meet up with these guys, I'll refund the money to ya'll. My account DOES take credit cards, so whatever method works for ya.

I'll be running in and out of the house, but have my cell with me I'll be checking in here as well. (I wish I had my aircard, but it's not coming till next week. Then I could check in from anywhere with a cell signal.)

	<p>73 High Top 71 Deluxe 84 Volvo 244GL 70 Chevrolegs</p>	
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DurocShark Samba Contributor  <p>Joined: 05 Apr 2004 Posts: 2125 Location: In the thin air</p>	<p>Posted: Sun Sep 12, 2004 10:22 am Post subject:</p> <p>Got \$40 in donations so far! You guys are great!!!</p> <p>73 High Top 71 Deluxe 84 Volvo 244GL 70 Chevrolegs</p>	quote edit
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topher Samba Contributor  <p>Joined: 23 Feb 2004 Posts: 90 Location: Santa Fe, NM</p>	<p>Posted: Sun Sep 12, 2004 11:56 am Post subject: it's in the mail...</p> <p>Man, this was a seriously great Sunday morning read. I just finished my coffee, sat down for some reading and voila!, 'The tale of Three Hippies, their Bus, and the Internet Community.'</p> <p>BottomEnd - You have more patience than any person I know. It's unbelievable that someone could be so self-less. I'm putting you down as an official member of the 'Registered Bad-asses' list.</p> <p>DurocShark - The '\$'s in the (e-)mail. I listed it under 'Goods' since I figured it rightfully go towards burritos (maybe an alt., that would be great).</p> <p>I seriously encourage anyone reading this to drop a couple of \$\$\$. It's not a big deal, you'd spend it on a 'Plug-n-Chug' or dash cover quite easily. Besides, the karma will last you a lifetime and I'm already feeling good about helping these guys out -- DurocShark and BottomEnd are what we want people to see us as.</p> <p>Thanks for the updates and keep 'em comming!!!</p> <p>mark</p> <p>'71 Westy in the works.</p> <p>www.smiththemark.org</p>	quote report
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MrBreeze Protector of the Bays  <p>Joined: 06 Oct 2002 Posts: 1428 Location: Lawn Guyland, NY</p>	<p>Posted: Sun Sep 12, 2004 12:01 pm Post subject:</p> <p>Money sent. Hope it helps!</p> <p>Rob - LI '77 Westy/'73 Bus/'85 Vanagon/ '71 Westy/'77 Scirocco My Fat Biotch OGJHC- LI "Got no time for the jibba jabba, fool" - Mr. T said it, and I believe it.</p>	quote report
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DurocShark Samba Contributor	<p>Posted: Sun Sep 12, 2004 12:07 pm Post subject:</p>	quote edit



Joined: 05 Apr 2004
Posts: 2125
Location: In the thin air

You guys rock! It's up to \$100!!!!

bottomend: Call me!!! At least let me come get this \$\$ to you and the guys!

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aggro_jo
Samba Sticker Pimp



Joined: 03 Jun 2004
Posts: 657
Location: Freeburg, Illinois

Posted: Sun Sep 12, 2004 12:14 pm Post subject:



money is sent. hoping more people step up. TAKE THAT CAMERA!!!!

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-OGJHC-

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Bottomend
Grease

Joined: 20 Sep 2003
Posts: 999
Location: Smell Aye! via Nude Hamster!

Posted: Sun Sep 12, 2004 1:24 pm Post subject:



I just woke up and last night was the first time I got more than five hours sleep in a week. Shark, I'm not trying to blow you off. I'll call you in a few minutes and get this thing going.

Dan, thanks for the donation of the volts meter. I think we'll pass because we (they, me...whatever) need a person who knows this system to do the diagnosis.

to answer the post about my possible obsessional behavior towards these guys I say this...first, thanks for your concern. I've had to keep myself in check on this point. That's why I took the approach of teaching/assistance.

I've been a teacher in the past (At an institute of music. A place cryptically named "Musicians Institute" ...) (hopefully that explains all the typos!) and I feel like I've arrived at the point where I can gauge when a person with less informatin (a student?) shuts down to receiving. The hippys have done that. not because they wanted to, but because it really is an overwhelming situation. It was pointed out that being hippys, they have found a certain life style to be compatible with their philosophy.

They are three people (two brothers and a friend) who have all had problems with crime and drugs in the past. They've been through the recovery stuff and jail ect. I had a good laugh when I went around and asked each of them what they went to jail for and Waterboy said it was forgery! This guy is only 20! He was a felon at 16! I thought that really fit well with his personality. Oh and BTW, he WAS the ring leader!

Residue was DEEP into drugs. Buying and selling and cooking. Leader has a similar story. They have taken real steps to better themselves. The recovery they have experienced has come through the church and they are now out searching for where God will lead them. I hope I haven't mislead anyone into thinking these guys are thugs. They're definatly not. For example;

When I picked up the camera the other day I wanted a pix with Leader next to the bus. he assumed a tough pose standing next to it and I said "dude, that not YOU! give it up!" his shoulders dropped a little and his chest sunk a bit. And we both laughed. THATS the picture of HIM.

I DEFINATLY get the feeling that they would give a person the shirt off their backs. There is a sense of enlightenment here that I NEED to see. I NEED to feel around me. I live in a messed up area and meeting these people is a breath of fresh air. When i start to complain bout my 'hood, people tell me to move out, go somewhere 'better". Where am I gonna go? To another neighborhood where they can afford BIGGER bars on the windows? I need to find a way to make THIS place work for me. Running away frm a less than perfect situation (a definant understament in this scenerio) is not taking the high road.

I guess I'm always looking to grow. Maybe it comes frm playing music. A player cant simly play the same licks and notes over and over. It becomes boring to play and even worse, it become boring for an audience. Maybe it's because of all those scientific studies about keeping the brain active. It lessen's the chances of 'getting old". I dunno what it is.... I just try to do the right thing before I do the comfortable thing.

Thanks for pondering with me about stuff like this. I feel like these kinds of issues are what this week has really been about. Sure I've learned a bit about cars. But how important is that? (when you're broken down it's ... IMPORTANT!) I've learned about MYSELF. How much I can endure. I 've learned how people operate. What types of things motivate people in different circumstances. My biggest revelation out of all of this is that just because people are different from yourself, that isn't a good enough reason to write them off. I was initially intimidated buy these guys. Not because of how they acted, but how they looked. I allowed myself to exist out side my comfort zone for a while. Personal growth can take place in many areas of life but as soon as a person is thrust into the unknown, you can be sure you'll be changed because of it.

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