

Mark Explains the Sources of Unnatural Insomnia

by Mark Owens
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I've had a busy weekend. But, rather than go into great detail about how I wound up in Pittsburgh naked and attached to a rather large goat by duct tape, I'll simply state that I've had to abandon my regular sleeping habits and settle for short naps here and there.

Because I didn't get much

sleep, I've been made painfully aware of Sleeper's

Etiquette and how it is abused by so many people. I've discovered a few things that really make sleeping difficult, other than being an insomniac. Here they are:

Morning People: I hate morning people. I am not a morning person. I am more of a large, grouchy bear than anything else.

My entire vocabulary for the first hour and a half after I get up consists of a sound generally attributed to a minor demon.

Mark Owens

The next hour expands to include "uhh" and "mmm."

My family has learned to deal with this by not talking to me until two in the afternoon.

Anyway, cheerful morning people really bother me. Anyone who can look me in the eye at eight in the blessed AM and say, in a bright, lilting, Valley Girl tone "Good MORNING Mark! How are YOU TODAY?! Isn't it so nice outside! Have a WONDERFUL MORNING!!!" deserves to be bludgeoned to death with a small appliance like a Veg-O-Matic, preferably while it's on.

I have four responses to these people in the morning, depending on how much they bother me:

1) "uhh" (go away.)

My neighbors also have small children. It used to be, before the moral and educational decline in this country, that children would sit inside for hours on end and watch wholesome programs like Buggs Bunny and Scooby-Doo.

- 2) "uh huh" (go away and be very, very ill.)
- 3) "mmm" (I'M GLAD YOU'RE HAVING A NICE DAY! LEAVE ME ALONE BEFORE I THROW YOU IN FRONT OF A LARGE MOVING BUS!!)"
- 4) placing a hand grenade in their shorts

Telephone Calls: I don't know what satanic spirit possesses people to call anyone before the decent hour like one in the afternoon.

I myself, when woken from sleep by the phone, nine times out of ten fail to identify the caller.

My mom called me once. After five minutes of listening to her I asked "Who is this?"

"Your mother."

"Oh. What do you want?"

Pets: My neighbors have dogs. For some unexplainable reason they (the dogs) like to do their own version of Good Morning America at 7:30 in the morning. On weekends, when I'm trying to sleep in, they either tune into cartoons or religious programing. Their favorites are Sylvester the Cat and Jimmy Swaggert. Sometimes they confuse the two, which is easy to do if you ask me.

Small Children: My neighbors also have small children. It used to be, before the moral and educational decline in this country, that children would sit inside for hours on end and watch wholesome programs like Buggs Bunny and Scooby-Doo. Now they play on the sidewalk RIGHT UNDER MY WINDOW. This is rather annoying, as small children tend to play loud enough for people in passing 747's to follow along. Here is an example of a typical Saturday morning under my window:

Steve: Bob, lets pretend that Cobra is attacking the GI Joe base! EEEERROWW!! BOOOM!!

John: AHAAHAH - wait Steve!! You can't do THAT! It's not in the comic book! Besides it's MY jet fighter!!

Bob: IT WAS TOO!! and its my comic book and if I want him to attack Sgt. Hackumm he CAN!!

John: OH YEAH! Well then MY SUPER TANK can shoot down your JET FIGHTER!!

Steve & Bob: No it can't! (Sound of opening window)

John & Frank (who has been putting dirt all over everything to make it look 'real' and make everyone's parents mad): Can too!

Steve & Bob: CAN NOT!!

John & Frank: CAN To- (Sound of the Furniture God on the Second Floor dropping a large oak desk on the Cobra & GI Joe forces below.)

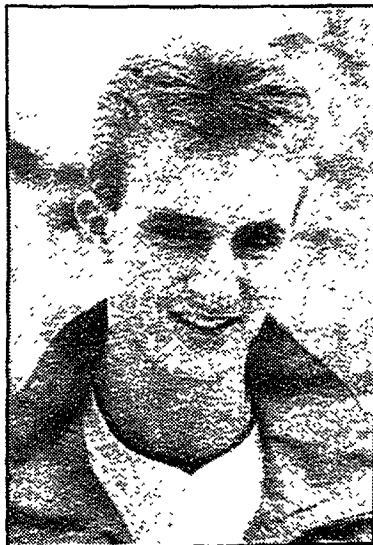
Even at school people interrupt sleepers. I've lost count of how many people I've seen napping on couches with various sayings scrawled on them with fluorescent markers.

Of course, couches aren't good to sleep on, as you always wake up with a large burlap print on your face. Everyone knows classrooms are the best place to sleep. Ask any of my professors. They know that I strongly believe this.

Well (yawn), I'm off to take a nap. Just obey the hotel sign I've put on my earlobe - Do not disturb.

Campus Voice

Where do you see yourself in ten years?



Steve McElhinny
7th semester
MIS

"Hopefully as a systems analyst at IBM."



Teresa Taylor
2nd semester
DUS

"Helping people to the best of my ability. I will also be married and starting a family."



Dr. Carl Kallgren
2 years
Social Psychology

"On sabbatical on the Galapagos Islands intently studying the social life of starfish."



Laurie Stumpf
2nd semester
Hospital Adm.

"I'll be chief administrator of a hospital in Boston living in the country and making millions."



Chris Sorgen
8th semester
History

"I'll have my Ph D in history and I'll be living in sin and horrifying my parents."



Bernie Jasos
7th semester
MET BD

"I see myself in an engineering company as a plastic engineer or a mechanical engineer technologist because I'll have both degrees."

(photos by Sandi Inman)

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