

Educationally Speaking  
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A funny thing happened last week. It got cold and rainy. Here's how weather patterns work for me. I'm sitting at my home in Indianapolis and the rain hits and the wind blows and it gets cold. Then I get in my car and go to Salem. Then the rain and wind hits again.

It's been a noted practice of the jet stream that it's always 10 degrees cooler here in Indianapolis than it is in Salem. Add on to that the lack of a real landscape, tall buildings and flat terrain and the wind is typically much chillier than it is Salem, too. Even when it's just 40 degrees outside electrons actually stop moving when you factor in the wind chill.

If I were a moose this would be an okay time of the year. Unfortunately, my body is not entirely covered in fur so I hate winter. I want to know where global warming is when I need it. I think everyone in this city ought to stand outside each day and spray aerosol cans into the air and park their cars with the engine still running. Over time winter might become an okay season and we'd save millions of dollars a year on highway maintenance because it would never snow.

I know when it's really cold outside because I won't be able to form a complete thought. It works something like this: I'm walking to class and I think to myself, "You know what I should really do is...HOLY COW IT'S COLD!" Then I fall over and cry.

To make matters worse, my office is always cold, too. At least most of it – my two other co-workers and myself pride ourselves on having the warmest room in the office because we're just that hot. Collectively our hotness heats up this corner to an acceptable temperature.

You might be thinking that I should just wear a coat. That would be letting the weather win. That's what nature *wants* you to do. I propose that everyone should smoke and thus, our breaths would all be warmer. The more we talk the warmer we feel. Doctors might tell you that smoking is bad and can cause lung cancer but I propose the doctors spend more time searching for a cure to cancer instead of telling us not to smoke. That's a win-win. It's either that or we all park our cars with the engine running and spray aerosol cans into the air.

I'm certainly not endorsing smoking and no, I do not smoke. I'm not endorsing destroying the environment, either. I just have to work on some more ideas of how to keep warm without wearing a coat. Each morning I get ready to walk out the door and I think, "I'm just sprinting from here to the car then dashing from the car to my office. I don't need a coat." If my car ever quits while I'm on the road I'll have no choice but to die in a snow bank because, like a moron, I won't have a coat with me. As I'm dying a slow and miserable death I'll probably exclaim something like "Brr" or "Jeepers".

My philosophy is that the best ways to die do not include phrases like, “went outside”. As in, “Where’s Justin?” “Oh, he went outside without a coat and died.” My philosophy also says that “cold” is just a really nice way of saying “pain” because that’s what it really is. Weather men should read the forecast and just say, “Tonight, cloudy, breezy and very painful.”

Lucky for me I live on the top floor of my apartment so the heat from the guys below me billows up into my living room. This year I’m thinking of ripping up the carpet and flooring just so I can save on my gas bill. Then I could save money *and* I wouldn’t have to wear a coat around the house. Now if I could just attach a gas heater to my car I’ll be set.