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Editorial 14: The Positives (+) and Negatives (-) of Intelligence

In the midst of this most recent cold snap, I was unexpectedly given a lesson about intelligence.

I was walking across the snow-covered parking lots after class when I came across two individuals who were boosting the dead battery in one of their cars. As I walked past the pair, I noticed that the set of booster cables that they were using were completely black. There was no positive clamp. There was no negative clamp. There was no difference between the clamps whatsoever. "How are they going to keep track of the battery's polarities?", I thought.

I approached the pair and asked if they needed a hand. They said that they could manage just fine so I turned to walk away, but then stopped. I couldn't help but ask about their unusual looking booster cables. One of the two pointed to a rather

snappy decal that accented a small box that was attached to the cables – then explained the purpose to me. The mystery was solved.

"Intelligent" booster cables they were called. "Intelligent" because the cables themselves keep track of the battery terminals – which means that you can hook any of the four clamps onto any of the four battery terminals and the jumpstart will be successful. "Pretty cool idea," I thought as I walked away.

Then I took a moment – and realized – that "true" intelligence would more likely refer to someone who can tell the difference between the symbols for (+) and (-), and not to someone who needs a small electronic box on a set of over priced booster cables to do so.

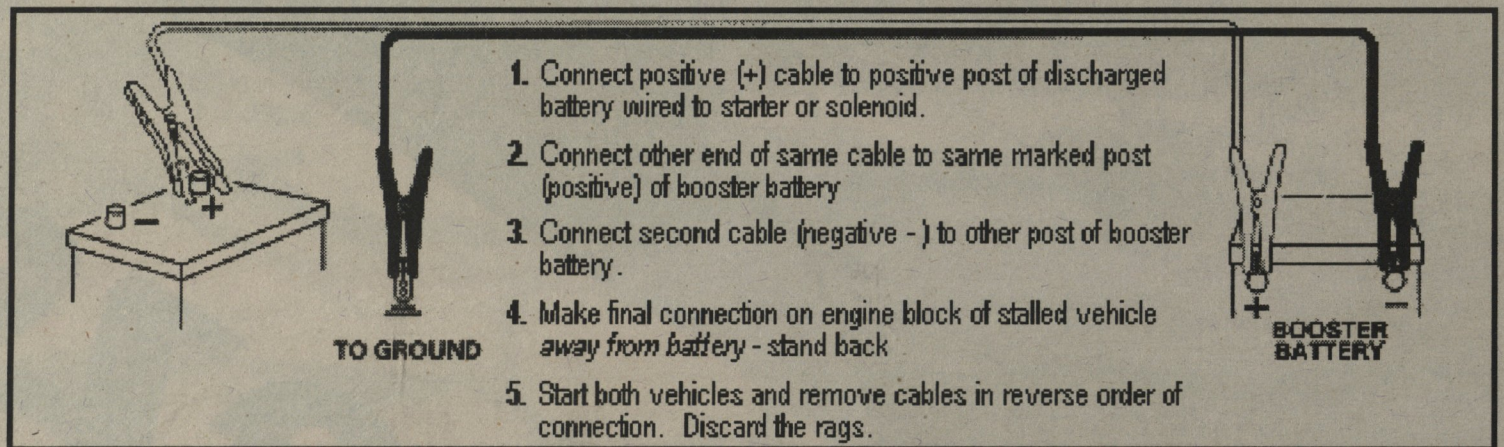
These "Intelligent" booster cables are the latest in a long line of items which

supposedly make our day to day lives easier. These items are invented to take the thought process out of tasks. To promote speed. To promote ease. In short, to promote less thinking.

The easier we make things for ourselves, the lazier we become. The more items that we buy, like the "Intelligent" booster cables, the more we reward stupidity and ignore intelligence. It's not a comforting thought – Common sense is become less and less common.

So, to end this editorial, here's a tip: Save yourself the fifty dollars, use regular booster cables, and simply pay attention to the small symbols marked (+) and (-).

Matt Stewart,
Editor-in-Chief



Letter to the Editor

What is the Consequence?

Dear Editor,

I could have frozen my butt off last night; I could have paraded around and shouted this afternoon. But both of these acts are abnormal. By abnormal I mean one would not have regularly camped out in storm conditions in February, and most people would agree that marching downtown is not the best way to spend an afternoon the week before midterms are scheduled to be written. However, the reasons for engaging in this absurd behaviour are quite normal, which is why I chose instead to write this letter. The issue at hand? Well, it depends what angle one approaches it from.

Some say because tuition prices are leaping up by 4-6% for next year. I prefer to look at it from an internal angle, if you will. Look at the prices today, not

just for the 2002 - 2003 academic year, but today. It will cost you, the student, to eat today. It will cost you to photocopy necessary course aids, it will cost you to transport your little body to and fro to accomplish errands, it will cost you time to run these errands. Errands will take away from your time spent on making yourself healthy and preparing for exams. But, one would argue, that's life. And it is, if you are a non-working student. Now throw a part time job into your day. The cost to work, although not monetary, is hefty. Both your time and energy are involved, both resources are nonrenewable resources (as far as today goes). Quite literally, by the end of today you are spent!

We are all familiar with the quality - quantity inverse relationship. When a large quantity of a good is produced, often the trade off is a reduction in the quality of the good. Guess what? The quantity of

tuition prices will go up. And the trade off? The quality of the students will decrease. Our days will be spent on errands, transportation, and part time jobs. Where, tell me, is the higher level of thought in any of these tasks? Do universities today lack the quality control of the past? If we are going to be treated as goods being manufactured out of a university, then we will respond, not react, as a lower quality good. We have breaking points, and we will bust sooner or later.

So, I urge the ones encouraging the tuition increase to think about what it really means. We are all taught in kindergarten for every action there is a consequence. Think about the consequences of your actions. Thank you.

Aleida Tweten